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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



\$1M Project

IT&E completes a \$1-million capacity and coverage expansion project on Saipan and Rota.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Billions Wasted

As the U.S. draws down in Iraq, it is leaving behind hundreds of abandoned or incomplete projects.

FOCUS...Page 17



15th Birthday

Giovanni's celebrates 15 years of serving the best of Italian cuisine on Saipan.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

**NMC Student Support program fails to get new funding. PAGE 2
CUC has until November 2011 to meet SO requirements. PAGE 9**

Government employees brace for cuts on essentials to cope

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five types of notices on the proposed 16-hour work reduction per pay period have been sent to over 1,500 government employees, who now have to cut their personal spending to be able to cope with a 20-percent pay cut in Fiscal Year 2011.

As of yesterday, department and activity heads in the Executive Branch have yet to finalize the implementation of the 64 work hours per pay period instead of 80 to be able to live within a government budget of \$132 million.

For many, the 16-hour work cut means four-day workweek or every-Friday-off.

"I will have my cable TV and landline disconnected when I get cuts in my salary," said a 54-year-old employee at the Department of Lands and Natural Re-

See PAY CUTS on Page 4

Robbers hit San Vicente store, poker arcade

» **Guard injured, 2 suspects arrested, 2 escaped**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two men robbed a store in San Vicente Saturday night, while a security guard foiled two men's attempt to rob a poker arcade, also in San Vicente, early yesterday morning.

See ROBBERS on Page 4

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, parents and students look on while Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, second from right, addresses the crowd before Fitial signed a proclamation on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon declaring September 2010 Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Fitial, in his proclamation, said the financial implications of childhood obesity pose a financial threat to the economy and the healthcare system, and called on the community to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Buckingham says event not mandatory

» **Expresses regret over people's concerns**
» **Fitial: Respect peoples' candidate of choice**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said yesterday that attendance among Office of the Attorney

General employees in the Saturday night gathering for U.S. delegate candidate Joseph Camacho was "not mandatory."

"Attendance was certainly not mandatory. People were invited to attend a dinner, sunset and companionship at the governor's residence. No one was 'told'

See BUCKINGHAM on Page 4



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Local

NMC Student Support program fails to get new funding

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A federally funded program of the Northern Marianas College that earlier this year has been found to have misused funds has been denied funding.

NMC confirmed in a statement issued to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that its Student Support Services was not selected for funding by the U.S. Department of Education this year. It did not say, however, if the denial is related to the audit findings of fund misuse.

The SSS program, assists students with basic college requirements and serves to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. Its goal is to increase college retention and graduation rates of participants and facilitate the process of transition from one level of higher education to the next. It serves 180 students per year.

"NMC learned that the grant application process had been very competitive and that the U.S. Department of Education received 1,475 applications—from all 50 states and all insular areas—for SSS funding," said

Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services.

He said the cut-off score for the competition was 95.67, a higher threshold compared to cut-off scores for other TRIO programs.

SSS, together with the Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound programs, comprise the offerings under the TRIO program—all funded by the federal government.

NMC plans to reapply for the same grant award so it could reinstate the program next year.

NMC interim president Loraine T. Cabrera described the rejection of the application as unfortunate.

"It's unfortunate that NMC's grant application for SSS was not selected in this award cycle. The program has been highly instrumental in helping our students with financially-disadvantaged backgrounds receive additional support services like tutoring and counseling services," said Cabrera in a statement yesterday.

She assured, though, that NMC will continue to provide its students the same services through other channels at the college.

She also said that NMC will continue to offer the two other programs under the TRIO program: Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound Program.

Although the SSS funding was stopped, Cabrera noted that funding for the federally-funded College Access Challenge Program was renewed, which allows the college to provide services like tutoring, counseling, and other activities to help students succeed in college.

The College Access Challenge Program is a separate offering from NMC.

"Students will also continue to receive one-on-one academic assistance from their advisers," said Cabrera.

"In any case, we are committed to minimizing any service disruption to the program participants so they can continue to focus on their studies," Cabrera said, adding that NMC will reapply to reinstate the SSS program at the next cycle.

A special audit conducted by an external auditor early this year uncovered misuse of funds and other deficiencies under the SSS program in 2008 and 2009.

Findings showed that the pro-

gram hired more than 20 "additional" personnel from 2008 to 2009. Part of the audit also showed that the SSS program had "un-reconciled" records of hours rendered by program

tutors, which exceed the grant budget for 2008 and 2009. It also exceeded the non-payroll expenses in two specific grant period awards, reflecting a three-fold increase from the ap-

proved budget for non-personnel expenses.

The investigation also described as "questionable" majority of open purchase orders made under the program.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ponytail Band members Badjhoe Tagalicud, left, and Patz Bautista, right, along with Floyd Anthony Lim (not shown in photo), rock the house at the "Dollar Concert for a Cause" at the American Memorial Park in Garapan Saturday night. Musicians and teen dance crews helped raise funds to defray medical costs for musician Violeta Lapuz's recent surgical procedures in Manila for her stage 3 breast cancer.

Group revs up Article 12 education campaign

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Citizens for Changing Article 12, Inc. continues its vigorous efforts to educate the community about issues related to Article 12 through the television and the Internet.

The television show is hosted by John Del Rosario and airs every Tuesday night at 7pm, with replays on Monday nights, also at 7pm.

The group said they also have a website, www.ccart12.com, which the public can access if they have any questions about the group and issues on Article 12.

Chaired by Efrain Camacho, CCART12 is a group of concerned citizens interested in informing fellow CNMI citizens about the benefits of voting against the extension of Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution.

Article 12 restricts the acquisition of CNMI real property exclusively to persons of Northern Marianas descent and other constitutionally qualified individuals based on certain political definitions.

Vice chair Frica Pangelinan told *Saipan Tribune* that they have been conducting informal gatherings, forums, and town hall-type meetings with business groups, students, and

other community members to present them with the facts about Article 12.

According to Pangelinan, the group wants to present to the public necessary information about provisions of Article 12 and have them decide the validity of the provisions in contemporary times.

Pangelinan said the definition of NMD is purely political, adding that the need to qualify the definition is more pressing now because of the existence of mixed marriages.

Article 12 defines NMD as a person who resided in the islands prior to the Trusteeship Agreement, a person born to NMD parents, a person adopted by an NMD, and a person who has at least 25 percent NMD blood.

Pangelinan said future generations will not be able to own land because the percentage of NMD bloodline will diminish to less than 25 percent, adding that "there's no provision [in the article] to address that issue."

"With the mixed marriages... in the end, who is really going to own the land when the bloodline no longer exists?" she asked.

With the current economic slump on the islands, Pangelinan said Article 12 actually impedes the economic growth of the CNMI as business invest-

tors are prohibited from investing on the islands because of the article's provisions.

"The law that is supposed to be protecting us is actually doing just the opposite," she added.

Dave Sablan, another member of the group, said Article 12 was relevant in the old days when the CNMI was still working on developing its economy.

But Sablan said Article 12 is no longer pertinent to the times since "it's really affecting many of us."

Pangelinan also pointed out that the group is more inclined to push for the abolition of the land alienation provision rather than just amending it in 2011.

Section 805 of the Covenant allows the CNMI to revisit its land alienation restrictions 25 years after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement in 1986. That 25-year period will end in 2011.

Sablan said they are now working on a schedule for town hall meetings in Tanapag and Kagman to discuss Article 12.

The group urged the community to get involved in this "very serious issue" by learning more about the matter.

Pangelinan said they welcome questions from the public and will assure them of a response through text, email or through the television show.

For more information, contact the group at 989-7469 or 788-8756, by email at ccart12@gmail.com or visit the website at www.ccart12.com.



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Fernandez wants over \$300,000; NMC and regents seek \$50,000

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez estimates that her damages in connection with her lawsuit against NMC and its regents will amount to over \$300,000. NMC and its regents, on the other hand, are seeking about \$50,000 in damages from Fernandez.

Based on their preliminary computations, Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for Fernandez, said her damages in this case will amount to almost \$300,000 based on the termination of her employment contract.

"The foregoing does not include attorney's fees and costs,

as well as punitive damages," said Nicholas in Fernandez's pre-discovery disclosure statement filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Michael Dotts, counsel for NMC and its regents, said that damages sought in their counterclaims will amount to about \$50,000 based on a preliminary best estimate.

In NMC's and regents' pre-disclosure statement, Dotts said they will also likely present an expert on proper procedures for grade changes.

Dotts said they may also call an expert witness on rules and procedure applicable to the college and also possibly on the duties of a college president.

A case management confer-

ence was set yesterday in federal court.

Fernandez hauled NMC, regents Janet H. King, Maria Castro "Paz" Younis, Andrew L. Orsini, and Frank Rabauliman to court for allegedly depriving her of her good name and property, conspiracy, defamation, and conspiracy to defame her. She sued NMC for wrongful termination and breach of contract.

NMC filed claims of breach of contract, and breach of fiduciary duty against Fernandez.

In NMC's claim for breach of contract, Dotts said the former college president failed to follow proper procedure in changing certain student grades, in contravention of NMC grade change policy.

Dotts said Fernandez also owed certain fiduciary duties to the college by virtue of her special position as president.

Fitial to testify in DC on two bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will testify in favor of two measures when he travels to Washington, D.C. in September.

Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), chair of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, invited Fitial to testify at the hearings on H.R. 4339 and H.R. 6015.

The hearing will be held on Sept. 16, at 10am in Room 1324 of the Longworth House Office Building.

Fitial, in an interview yesterday, said he supports H.R. 4339, which creates the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Fellowship Act, and H.R. 6015, which requires the director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis to publish certain economic data on territories and Freely Associated States.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan introduced HR 4339, while Bordallo introduced HR 6015, which has eight co-sponsors.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said the Fitial administration "finds it very unfortunate that Delegate Sablan's bill proposing a federal government fellowship program for CNMI students does not have any other sponsors from the Subcommittee—usually an indication that the bill does not have adequate support to get a favorable recommendation from the Subcommittee."

Demapan said one also has to wonder why this proposal is coming so late in the congressional session, especially in light of the very political environment in which Congress will be operating in its last sessions before the mid-term election.

Fitial said Sablan introduced 17 measures since he came into office but none became law.

Sablan, when asked for comment, said Fitial's statement is "completely untrue."

"Most of the bills don't get enacted into law. Most of them get bundled together with other bills

and become law," he said, citing, for example, his proposal to double the number of slots available for CNMI individuals wishing to enter military academies. This language was inserted in another bill that became law.

Just yesterday morning, Sablan presented a \$100,000 earmarked appropriation for textbooks and library books for the Public School System, which happened because of his request. He also cited the provision that he requested to provide \$158 million in Medicaid funding for the CNMI, which was not included in the original version of the health care reform bill.

Demapan said Bordallo's HR 6015 has the co-sponsorship of virtually every other member of the Subcommittee "except Delegate Sablan."

"The Commonwealth's citizens should be inquiring why this is the case. Does Congressman Sablan oppose the provi-

sions of this bill? Was he asked to co-sponsor the bill? Or is this a sign of the lack of any collegial relationship that Sablan has established with other members of the Subcommittee? This is a bill that is of great significance for the territories and thankfully for our friends from the other insular areas, the CNMI was included. The absence of our delegate's co-sponsorship though is a cause for alarm in terms of our representation in Congress," he said.

Sablan is seeking re-election, while Fitial's Covenant Party endorses former House floor leader Joseph Camacho's candidacy. Also running for the delegate seat are former Gov. Juan N. Babauta and former Lt. Gov. Jesse Borja.

The delegate election is on Nov. 2.

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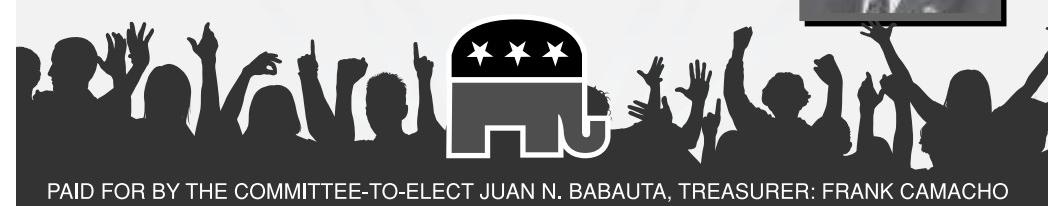
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Senate panel: No increase in lawmakers' discretionary funding

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee is recommending to the full Senate not to increase lawmakers' annual discretionary funding in the Fiscal Year 2011 budget.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), committee chair, said yesterday that the discretionary funding will remain at the

current level of \$86,796.

The budget bill that the House passed increases the discretionary fund to \$130,000.

But because the full Senate has yet to see the recommendation, this may still be changed when voting comes.

Taimanao's committee is ready to present its recom-



Taimanao

mendation and findings to the full Senate during today's scheduled session.

However, Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) cancelled yesterday's session and expects to reschedule it later this week.

Manglona cancelled the session because Senate Vice President Jude

Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who is vice chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, is still on Guam following the untimely death of his brother, Francisco Rudy Hofschneider.

Concerned citizens have called on lawmakers not to increase their discretionary funding from over \$86,000 to \$130,000, when most government employees will be receiving up to 25 percent cuts in their salaries in FY 2011.

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said his committee is willing and able to work with the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee should a conference committee will be called on the FY 2011 budget.

PAY CUTS

From Page 1

sources.

She has been at DLNR for 20 years now and earns some \$20,000 a year.

"My message to others—I hope they give up some of their habits like smoking, chewing betel nut, having happy hours. But I think they won't have extra money for that anyway," she said.

Joe Ruak, the public information officer at DLNR, said he is currently looking for a part-time job "to supplement my income when I get pay cuts."

But Ruak said the chance of him finding a part-time job is slim, considering that he is not the only one looking for one.

Ruak, who has been in government for more than 10 years, said he will also reduce "driving around the island."

"I always take my mom driving around the island. That has to be drastically reduced to save gas. My mom enjoys sightseeing. ...But my message to others—we should learn how to live within our means and supplement our income as much as we can," he said.

Department heads began issuing notices to their employees on Friday, but most were given yesterday and today.

The letters serve as a "30-day advance written notice."

"Specific weekly schedules may vary according to the needs of the

government. This reduction in salary will continue until formal notice of cessation is received," the sample notice reads.

The work hour cuts cover civil service and excepted service employees, as well as appointed officials in the Executive Branch only.

"This is an administrative action that is necessary due to the Commonwealth government's economic situation and a lack of sufficient funding to continue current employment levels," the notice reads.

An employee at the Division of Procurement and Supply, for his part, said his family will cut down on travel.

"But pay cut is better than losing my job. I don't think I will be able to find another job," the father of two added.

Some of the lowest paid government employees said they may start applying for food stamp to make up for the 20-percent cut in their salary.

Robert Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, said his family will reduce their utility consumption.

"It's going to be hard but everybody has to share the burden. ...If people are eligible for food stamp, I encourage them to take advantage of it because it's something that's available to those who need it," said Guerrero, who has four children.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, for his part, said he already has a 10-hour cut in his salary and is bracing for six additional hours of pay cut.

"Some spending need to be cut like utility consumption. ...As long

as I can provide for essential needs of my family, we should be okay. We can weather this storm," he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who has long been voluntarily cutting his salary by 10 percent, said that, while the 16-hour cuts are necessary, he sees improvement in government revenue collection in fiscal year 2011.

"We don't want to reduce more than what we need," he added.

The governor said his administration will do its best to help government employees find private sector jobs, including jobs related to the military buildup in Guam.

"So there are people in Guam and our people, including WIA, now working together to identify how many local people can be helped. There's collaboration not only between Guam and the CNMI, but also Micronesia, so the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit is very important," he said.

The work hour cuts will take effect 30 days after receipt of the reduction-in-force notices, in time for the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

Demapan said federally funded positions are included in the work hour cuts, unless the Fitial administration hears from federal grantors that reducing the hours of these positions will jeopardize program funding.

Exempted from the work hour cuts are doctors, nurses, police officers, fire fighters, corrections officers and others holding so-called critical services.

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 1

to attend. Indeed, because of concern about possible perceptions, people were specifically told not to come if they felt their presence would make them uncomfortable," he said in a written response yesterday to media questions.

Community members and other candidates cited the possibility of conflict of interest involving the attorney general for his presence and hosting of the event held at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's private residence in Gualo Rai.

"Even though I do not agree with the concerns that have been raised, to the extent that some in the public might have concerns arising from Saturday, I wish to express my regret," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, when asked about the matter, said: "People should respect the decision of other people in selecting the candidate of their choice."

Camacho earlier said the same thing.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guer-

rero declined to comment.

Camacho's campaign team posted online that Buckingham and his office will be hosting the event.

Buckingham delivered short remarks at the event.

The attorney general showed *Saipan Tribune* yesterday a video clip of his remarks, which were mostly to thank OAG staff for their hard work and acknowledge some people in attendance.

There were no remarks endorsing Camacho's candidacy.

When asked what he has to say about questions on conflict of interest, Buckingham said he respects that people have the right to their own opinions.

As to the specific gathering on Saturday night, he said, "This was not a mandatory event. People could come or not. As you could see from my statement, I was (and am) grateful for the hard work done by all members of our office on behalf of the Commonwealth. This was a chance for me to say 'thank you.'"

Buckingham said he contributed \$300 from his personal funds for food and cleanup.

He said he has no knowledge whether anyone else from the OAG contrib-

uted to the event.

Buckingham was also asked whether he could assure the public that his appearance at the Saturday event will not affect the outcome of the election.

"The election will be determined by those who cast votes in the upcoming election. The Election Commission, Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General have historically worked to ensure that votes are cast in compliance with laws and regulations and counted accurately. We will continue to abide by that responsibility," he said.

Buckingham said as an attorney general or as an assistant attorney general, it is their responsibility to behave appropriately at all times—24 hours a day seven days a week.

"There are people who no longer work in this office because of inappropriate conduct that occurred after working hours. This doesn't mean that I, or every person will be perfect 24 hours a day seven days a week. We are human and imperfect. But, I expect to do my best. Even though I do not agree with the concerns that have been raised, to the extent that some in the public might

have concerns arising from Saturday, I wish to express my regret," he said.

Glen Hunter, a private citizen, said the attorney general's hosting of the event is a public showing of bias.

"Even if it isn't illegal, does it not border on unethical?" he asked.

He said Buckingham, tasked with ensuring a free and fair election as attorney general, should have thought twice about hosting a meet-and-greet with a candidate in a federal election.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and former Gov. Juan N. Babauta, both candidates for delegate, also raised concern on the inappropriateness of Buckingham's hosting of the event.

Camacho's official Facebook page announced that the attorney general and his staff are hosting the gathering.

This announcement was later deleted from the Facebook page after comments questioning the move were posted.

Human rights activist Wendy Doromal, in her updated blog yesterday, said anyone, whether a government employee or not, has the right to support any candidate of their choice, but they should be acting in a citizen capacity

Without a budget passed before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1, the government will be forced to shut down as called for by last year's constitutional amendment.

Taimanao reiterated that her committee does not have a substitute budget bill, but is only amending some provisions of Basa's bill.

In other news, the House of Representatives went into recess until this morning after holding a brief session yesterday afternoon.

House members said some bills, including one that amends the election law, to be entertained during the session had yet to be finalized as of yesterday.

built, and wearing a dark T-shirt with a pair of dark colored short pants.

Chen described the second suspect as about 5'8" to 5'10" tall, skinny, and was wearing a mask, blue or black long-sleeved shirt with a pair of dark long pants.

"DPS is asking the community to call the Criminal Investigation Bureau for any information or call the NMI Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272," Blas said.

In the SV Video Poker incident, security guard Edward Santos called police at 2:17am yesterday to report the robbery.

Preliminary police investigation showed that two men armed with knives had entered the poker arcade, located along Isa Drive south of the former CYC Store.

The two suspects demanded money from the store's employees. The robbers then assaulted the guard, who struggled and was able to disarm them.

The suspects then ran east toward the former Rifu Garment Factory.

With the help of other responding police officers, one suspect, later identified as the 27-year-old Fitial, was found and arrested at 2:49am outside an apartment complex behind the former Rifu factory.

Follow-up investigation conducted by CIB detectives led to the arrest of the 20-year-old Santos at the same apartment complex at 7:46am.

and not in a government employee capacity when they do so.

Doromal, a former teacher on Rota, also posted on her blog an email that Frieda Demapan, executive assistant to the attorney general, sent to all CNMI assistant attorneys general and staff on Aug. 19.

The email reads: "I am taking this upon myself to inform you all that our Attorney General, Edward T. Buckingham, and the Office of Attorney General as a whole, will be hosting a gathering for Joe Camacho on Saturday, August 28, 2010, starting at 4:30pm at the Governor's House. As our AG has said, this gathering is not mandatory, but it would be nice to see our attorneys and staff come and enjoy the food, drinks and view and be able to socialize with other people throughout the night while this gathering is ongoing."

Doromal said that email correspondence—presumed to be conducted on government equipment, on government time, and sent to fellow government employees—"appears to be an unlawful political campaign activity carried out in the very office that should be enforcing and upholding law."

Public schools pass inspection, are water bacteria-free

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All 20 schools of the CNMI Public School System have passed the sanitary requirements of the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the BEH said its inspectors are done with the school inspection and "all [have] met our and the Division of Environmental Quality's requirement regarding water being tested and free from any water bacteria."

BEH is advising school principals to report to the bureau and renew their sanitary permit to be fully compliant.

Under the Commonwealth Environmental Health and Sanitation Act of 2000, a health inspector must visit a school and declare it sanitary before it is allowed to purchase a permit. Permits are renewed annually. Schools are inspected once or twice a year.

As part of procedures, sanitary permit applications, along with the inspection report, are issued to school administrators on an annual basis. Non-compliance is dealt with using the same procedures as the other regulated establishments: issuance of a verbal warning or warning letter, imposition of late penalty fee, then recommendation for closure to the secretary of Public Health.

In school year 2008, some schools failed to comply with this requirement, resulting in a two-week delay in the opening of classes. These schools included Marianas High School, Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, and Oleai Head Start Center.

The Board of Education has set Sept. 7 as the opening of classes from kindergarten to 12th grade for school year 2010-2011. Thousands of students are expected to return to classrooms this new school year.

'Combat the flu'

Besides ensuring the good

quality of water and safety of school campuses, the Public Health Department is also leading a campaign to combat the spread of influenza among schoolchildren.

"The department's strategy to combat the flu and all vaccine preventable diseases consists of proactive approaches that promote public awareness and education supported by the availability of all recommended vaccines," said Jeremy Sasamoto, DPH Immunization Program manager, in an email.

He said public awareness is being promoted by immunization program staff, DPH's FluW.A.T.C.H. campaign, and regular public announcements in television, radio, and print media.

"This flu season we will introduce a new trivalent influenza vaccine to the CNMI that combines both seasonal flu and H1N1 [swine flu] vaccines. This new trivalent influenza vaccine will be administered at all DPH clinics in addition to community outreach clinics conducted at public and private schools, public events such as the Garapan street market, and village community events," said Sasamoto.

These flu prevention drives aim to immunize all members of the community with an emphasis on young children, the elderly, and pregnant women.

Prevention and awareness is not focused solely on influenza. Sasamoto said the community must also be protected against all vaccine preventable diseases.

He said an aggressive public education campaign will be conducted to educate the public on all vaccines recommended for children from birth to age 18.

This combination of public awareness promotion, availability of all recommended vaccines, and the dedication of DPH staff, will not only prevent the flu this upcoming season, but prevent all vaccine preventable diseases in the CNMI as well, according to Sasamoto.



WELCOME WEEK

IT&E representatives take time to pose for a group photo during the Northern Marianas College's Welcome Week Fair on Monday, Aug. 30, 2010. The NMC Welcome Week Fair was part of the college's activities to welcome new and returning students. The Fair also showcased other businesses and organizations, including Saipan Computer Services and Bank of Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DCCA-159 (1)(2)**

BID SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIFTEEN (15) SETS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR YOUNG & MOBILE INFANTS (0-18 MONTHS) AND FIFTEEN (15) SETS OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS FOR TODDLERS & TWO'S (19-35 MONTHS) FOR THE DCCA - CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, P&S

10 WIA trainees at mayor's office end stint



The Workforce Investment Agency trainees hold their certificates and pose with Martha Sablan of the Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday afternoon. The 10 students received their training from Aug. 3 to 30.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ten trainees of the Workforce Investment Agency at the Saipan Mayor's office were treated to pizza and ice cream and received certificates to culminate their training yesterday.

The WIA trainees reported for work from 7:30am to 4:30pm last Aug. 3 to 30.

These trainees are Tiffany C. Villanueva, Mary Ann Babauta, Jirelle P. Maralit, and Dhale R. Posadas, who received training as administrative assistants; Nora A. Vincent, customer service; Sylvestre Selepeo and Nicholas Juan V. Cabrera, nursery assistants; Francisco M. Camacho, Ceejay Brandon C. Echalico, and Shawn Taitingfong as mechanic helpers.

Some of the trainees have been with the WIA program for the third time while some got to experience it for the first time.

Martha Sablan, human resource manager at the mayor's office, described them as "good trainees."

"They've been very helpful to us. They were

always punctual and they were very willing to learn," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The trainees also enjoyed the time they spent at the mayor's office. "They're all very kind and very cool for their age," said Dhale Posadas, an incoming freshman at Saipan Southern High School.

As an administrative assistant trainee, 17-year-old Nora Vincent said she learned how to be patient with irate clients at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Vincent, who previously served as WIA trainee at the Saipan Municipal Council and the Medical Records Division at the Commonwealth Health Center, said she loved the part where she got to meet a lot of new people.

Jirelle Maralit, also a third-time WIA trainee, said she enjoyed her training because she learned about accounting.

Incoming Marianas High School sophomore Sylvestre Selepeo said all the cleanup they did were a lot of hard work "but it was fun."

Tiffany Villanueva, a Saipan Southern High junior, said that whenever she answered phone calls from furious callers, she would still answer nicely and transfer it to any supervisor.

Sablan urged the young trainees to continue participating in youth programs and learn from them as much as they can.

"Through these trainings, they will gain skills that they can use when they are already working. No one can take away those skills from them," she said.

Early Signs of Autism Learn the Signs. Act Early. Red flags to watch for from birth to age 3

Social

Children with autism may:

- Not share warm, joyful facial expressions, such as smiles by 6 months
- Not babble and coo by 12 months
- Not respond to their name by 12 months
- Use few or no gestures (e.g., does not wave goodbye, point, etc.) by 12 months
- Not play "pretend" games (pretend to "feed" a doll) by 18 months
- Avoid eye contact
- Avoid other people and prefer to play alone
- Prefer not to be held or cuddled
- Have delayed speech and language skills.

Behavioral

Children with autism may:

- Be very organized (e.g., line up toys or other objects)
- Get upset by minor changes
- Have odd movement patterns (e.g., flaps hands, rocks body, or spins self in circles)
- Have frequent temper tantrums
- Be overly active
- Purposefully hurt themselves
- Repeat words or actions over and over
- Look at objects from unusual angles.

Other areas

Children with autism often:

- Are overly sensitive to touch, sounds, taste or smells
- Lack fear in dangerous situations
- Have an intense need for routines
- Have learning difficulties
- Lose skills they once had (for instance, stop saying words they were using).

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact your baby's doctor or call the Children's Developmental Assistance Center at **664-4830** for a free developmental screening.

Children with autism can learn, grow and succeed.

Early action is the key!



Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Last day to apply for NMC prexy

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Presidential Search Committee had initially given an Aug. 9 deadline to entertain applicants for president of the Northern Marianas College but they extended it by two more weeks to give applicants more time to prepare their documents.

The position was opened on July 9 through Aug. 9 but the deadline was reset to today, Aug. 31. The salary for the position is \$80,000 per annum plus benefits.

"The Presidential Search Committee extended the presidential announcement to Aug. 31, 2010, to allow the appli-

cants ample time to submit their applications by certified mail," the panel told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday in a statement.

The college's former president, Dr. Carmen Fernandez, was let go on April 12 after investigations conducted by the Attorney General's Office and NMC uncovered violations of college and board policies, including unauthorized changing of students' grades.

The college announcement stated that it is accepting applications until today.

The individual will serve as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located in main campus

Ex-convict gets 30 days for threats

An ex-convict who had threatened a Corrections officer and his wife and resisted arrest was sentenced to 30 days in prison yesterday.

John M. Namauleg was sentenced to 18 months, all suspended except for 30 days, with credit for the 11 days he had already served in jail.

The 37-year-old Namauleg began serving his sentence at the Department of Corrections Thursday night. He will be released on Sept. 14, 2010, and then placed on two years of supervised probation.

Namauleg was also ordered to pay a \$50 fine, \$25 court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set a review hearing on Nov. 10, 2010.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Namauleg with resisting arrest and disturbing the peace. He pleaded guilty to the charges as part of a plea bargain.

The case arose from a May 23, 2010, incident when Namauleg threatened Corrections officer Joe Cohn and his wife.

Man arrested for indecent exposure

Police arrested in Dandan Friday night a 21-year-old man who thrice allegedly played with himself in front of a female neighbor.

Jake Atalig Palacios was arrested for indecent exposure and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at \$500 cash.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo barred Palacios from having contact

with the alleged victim and ordered him to stay away from his neighbors' homes.

Detective Buddy Igitol stated in his report that the woman sought police's help Tuesday morning.

Igitol said the complainant stated that in three separate instances that morning, Palacios played with himself as soon as he saw her outside her house.

Igitol said that, according to the

on Saipan and instructional sites on Rota and Tinian. He/she will report to the Board of Regents.

To protect the privacy and confidentiality of records, all applicants are required to turn in applications through "priority mail" addressed to the panel's chairperson, Maria Paz Younis. Only complete packets will be entertained by the committee.

Last June 30, the accrediting commission placed NMC in show-cause status again and required the college to immediately hire a new president before Oct. 15 this year.

The search committee is expected to recommend a final candidate for board action in September.

Ex-convict gets 30 days for threats

Namauleg was also resisted when Cohn tried to arrest him.

Police said the incident happened at the DOC where Namauleg was detained at the time for violation of probation.

In September 2009, Namauleg allegedly repeatedly stabbed a female garment worker, resulting in her being paralyzed. He was cleared in the case after the government withdrew all charges when the CNMI Supreme Court denied the prosecution's petition to compel the court to use the victim's videotaped deposition during trial. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

victim, many of their neighbors had also complained that Palacios had been seen peeping through their windows and playing with himself outside his house and facing their neighbors' homes.

Police arrested the then 19-year-old Palacios in May 2008 for allegedly stealing and selling some items owned by a police officer and his family. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Necklaces up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Charms up to \$300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pens up to \$400 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Bracelets .. up to \$1,500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Rings up to \$500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold School Rings up to \$500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watches up to \$1,750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Cuff Links up to \$300 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Cases up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Rings up to \$800 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Rings up to \$500 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Watch Bands up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Earrings up to \$200 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pocket Watches up to \$750 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Brooches up to \$1,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Wedding Bands up to \$350 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental Gold up to \$900 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Link Bracelets up to \$2,500 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Coins up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bangles up to \$850 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Scrap up to \$1,250 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Broken Chains up to \$1,000 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Bars up to \$15,000 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Pendants up to \$300 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gold Nugget Bracelets .. up to \$2,500 | | |

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\$1.00 U.S. Gold	\$75 to \$3,500
\$2.50 U.S. Gold	\$100 to \$5,500
\$3.00 U.S. Gold	\$250 to \$5,750
\$5.00 U.S. Gold	\$200 to \$7,500
\$10.00 U.S. Gold	\$400 to \$11,500
\$20.00 U.S. Gold	\$800 to \$15,000

Bullion and foreign gold wanted. No collection too small or large. Free evaluation. No-obligation cash offer!



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10C Silver (1964 & earlier).....	\$50 up to \$250

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GOP Nat'l Committee chair to visit Guam

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho announced yesterday that Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele will be in Guam on Sept. 7, 2010, to keynote a Republican Party fundraiser.

"Chairman Steele will be arriving in Guahan to provide the keynote speech for the Sept. 7th Republican Party fundraiser benefiting the Republican nominees for the governor of Guahan and senators of the Guam Legislature. Additionally, the chairman will be the honored guest at



Steele

a luncheon fundraiser on Sept. 8th benefiting the Republican Party of Guahan."

Camacho, who touted the Republican slate for office this year as "incredibly strong," said, "I am confident that chairman Steele's visit will help the Republican Party secure the

necessary resources we need to regain control of the governor's office as well as a majority in the Guam Legislature."

"As part of chairman Steele's mission to reinvigorate the Republican Party as well as attracting new voters, his visit to our island demonstrates that the Guamanian voters in the continental U.S. are an important part of this mission," he added.

More details of Steele's agenda will be announced in

the coming days and Camacho is encouraging every Guam resident to participate as much as possible.

Steele will also visit Saipan for the first time on Sept. 8 to publicly endorse the candidacy of former Gov. Juan N. Babauta as CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

This is the first time a chairman of the Republican National Committee will ever set foot on the CNMI. (*Saipan Tribune*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FOA schedules auditions

The Friends of the Arts will be holding auditions for its Halloween Show on Sept. 3 (6pm to 8pm); Saturday, Sept. 4 and Sunday, Sept. 5 (3pm to 5pm).

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza
One Naumi Loop
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax. No. (670) 234-5683

Attorney for Plaintiff Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, Plaintiff, vs. ALBERT U. CHARFAUROS and FRANCISCA C. CHARFAUROS, Defendants.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0481 SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated June 10, 2010, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Albert U. Charfauros and Francisco C. Charfauros' interests in Lot 001 G 151, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Monday, September 20, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 001 G 151, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 04, the original of which was recorded 27 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-511 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Emma Fabre of the O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes at Tel. No. 234-5689.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated.

D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 12th of August, 2010.

/s/Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

Sep. 5 and Sep. 6: Zooming in on Zoning: Policy Updates and Zoning Plans

Guests: Herminia M. Fusco, CNMI Zoning board chairwoman; Henry S. Hofsneider, CNMI Zoning board vice chairman; Dr. Liz Diaz-Rechebei, CNMI Zoning board.

■ Live Sep. 8, 2010; Replays Sep. 12 and Sep. 13: Historic Preservation Public Education Series—Introduction to Historic Preservation Law, Duties, and

Responsibilities

Guests: John S. Castro, HPO field tech; Herman Tudela, HPO field tech; and Ronnie Rogers, HPO Archaeology.

John Gonzales LIVE airs live on Wednesday and replays on Sunday and Monday, all from 7pm to 8pm on Ch. 2. Text 285-META (6382), call 287-4230, or email johngonzales@pticom.com for questions or comments.

DEQ Cleanup Brigade schedule

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be deviating from its regular first Saturday of each month in order to participate in the 2010 International Coastal Cleanup drive. If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, download the registration form at deg.gov.mp or beautifycnmi.org, fill it out and fax it to Rachel of CRM.

Volunteers will start cleaning for about two hours or when finished and then break for drinks and continue if needed. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

New Marriage Encounter Weekend

The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on Oct. 8–10, 2010, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is \$50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the below listed individuals:

■ Fall 2010 Weekend coordinators Jake and Jackie Van Dam: 285-9272 or jcqlnvndm@gmail.com

■ Weekend Pillar coordinators Jun and Linda Pangalinan: 483-4111 or linpangalinan@gmail.com

■ Fall 2010 Registration couple John and Vicky Mafnas: 285-8454 or vbmafna@yahoo.com

You may also contact the Ecclesial Team/Executive Board members:

■ Fr. Ike Ayuyu, 234-8888, or ikeayuyu@gmail.com

■ Vince & Hilma Castro, 287-8089 or hilmacastrome@gmail.com

■ www.cnmime.blogspot.com or www.cnmime.org. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug. 31, 1999

Should social promotion be retained?

Chicago recently joined the campaign in the United States to end the practice of social promotion in public education, but the CNMI's Public School System is not about to follow suit, according to a PSS official. "What we need to learn first is whether the teacher has exhausted his or her efforts and techniques to help students pass the class and learn something before coming to a decision to demote him or retain him," said Rey Tebuteb, teacher-trainee coordinator of PSS. "But we have to look at it at individual approach because eventually it will not be a social group promotion but individual promotion or retention," Tebuteb said. Social promotion is a longtime practice of allowing academically poor students to move on the next grade rather than holding them back.

Fellowship grant available for teachers

The Public School System has started receiving applications for the 1999 Christa McAuliffe Fellowship for eligible teachers and principals. Education Commissioner Rita Inos announced that the grant has been expanded to allow 10 fellowships instead of just one. Deadline for submission of application is Sept. 27, Inos said in a memo to teachers and principals. An applicant may request a fellow grant of maximum of \$2,500. Eight years of experience as a classroom teacher is among the eligibility requirements for an applicant. Grant recipients, according to Inos, also have to agree to a condition for them to return to teaching position for at least two years following the completion of the award.

Aug. 31, 2000

Bill offers \$10K incentive for construction of water catchment

In a move to encourage residents and businesses to build water catchment system, the government will offer tax incentives of up to \$10,000 under a piece of legislation cleared yesterday by the House of Representatives. These tanks—to be built to catch rainwater—will help in the efforts to conserve groundwater resources, particularly on Saipan where residents are perennially hit with shortage during the dry months, according to lawmakers. Three government agencies had backed the measure sponsored by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, chair of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, aimed at promoting the utilization of rain to supply fresh water to island residents.

Rota mayor: Relaxing gun control good for tourism

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona has appealed to the Senate to immediately act on a measure amending the Weapons Control Act in a bid to lure resort developers who will offer shooting practice and target ranges in the CNMI. He said the proposal, if passed into law, would open the door for substantial development and give an opportunity for his island municipality to have a new multi-million dollar resort. "It will increase government revenues, revitalize the private sector and create the jobs we need so much for our people," the mayor wrote to Senate President Paul A. Manglona.

Aug. 31, 2001

CUC fends off talks with Enron

"Enron is dead!" Thus said Timothy P. Villagomez, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, on the chances of the conglomerate to negotiate a contract for the proposed 60-megawatt power plant on Saipan. Villagomez issued the statement after receiving the opinion of the Attorney General's Office on the issue. The AGO vowed not to sign any contract with Enron Guam. Saying that Frederick LaCroix, the general manager of Enron Guam, was guilty of misrepresentation by claiming that the company is still involved in the power plant project, Villagomez said the CUC ruled out any possibility of resuming negotiations with the businessman's group.

Teno, Babauta urged to address the Commonwealth

The Senate has put the House of Representatives on notice that, whether it agrees or not, the Senate will ask Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta to deliver their State of the Commonwealth address and State of the Washington Office report respectively. During yesterday's session, the upper chamber adopted Senate Resolution 12-54, asking the Governor and the Washington representative to appear before the Senate and deliver their respective reports on September 5 "or other mutually acceptable date" at the Multi-Purpose Center.

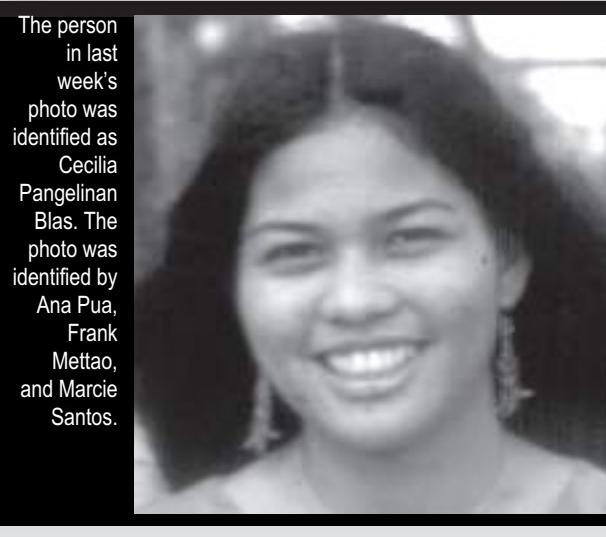


THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The person in last week's photo was identified as Cecilia Pangalinan Blas. The photo was identified by Ana Pua, Frank Mettao, and Marcie Santos.



CUC has until November 2011 to meet SO requirements

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal government has given the Commonwealth until November next year to address all concerns raised in the two stipulated orders issued the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. last year.

Based on the second stipulated order calendar list approved by the federal court on Aug. 12, CUC is mandated to turn in eight deliverables in August. These include a Division of Environmental Quality list of corrections for certain areas of concern and sanitary deficiencies at wellheads. CUC was also expected to assess

the adequacy of other secondary containment areas to EPA as well as a conference call on its reorganization plan.

This month, the court also ordered CUC to submit a revised tank cleanout plan while EPA is slated to respond to the revised response equipment list by CUC and response to CUC's letter on Dec. 11.

Yesterday, CUC was expected to submit to EPA a report on the status of the \$4 million Department of the Interior grant projects. CUC must also contract and design pipelines to meet certain deliverables.

For September this year, list of candidates for certain po-

sitions must be turned in to EPA, including the executive director, deputy executive director, wastewater treatment plant operations supervisor, and drinking water and wastewater division manager. CUC is scheduled to hold a conference call with EPA on Sept. 2 to discuss progress with the reorganization plan at the agency.

Other important deliverables that must be completed with next month include a work plan for power plants 4 and 3, cleanup of onshore oil spills, tank cleanout plan, and work on

the interim financial plan. EPA is also scheduled to respond to CUC's submission of the chlorination and disinfection program.

The final reorganization plan and CUC's quarterly report are scheduled to be submitted to EPA in October 2010. The governor is expected to appoint a new executive director for CUC by the end of October.

The complete removal of oil in Tank 104 and a new agreement with Power Plant 4 contractor PMIC is scheduled for completion in November. The final inter-

im financial plan and reorganization plan are also mandated to be submitted on Nov. 30.

New personnel hired for important CUC positions are scheduled to start work in December.

CUC is also expected to complete its water meter installations as well as its reading and billing program plans.

Other important deliverables are due for completion and submission to EPA from January 2011 through Nov. 15, 2011, when the last requirement is ordered to be completed.

Other deliverables relating to stipulated order 1—Part 12, 13, 15—have been approved and

completed, according to CUC assistant executive director Abe Utu Malae.

The stipulated orders represent the agreement between the CNMI and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on how CUC plans to comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

CUC, which has been in state of emergency since 2008, has been paying a significant amount of accrued penalties to EPA for not meeting these deliverables.

Adjusting the deadlines is expected to eliminate assessment of additional penalties for non-compliance.

NEW DEADLINES FOR CUC

Based on the second stipulated order, new deadlines were set for CUC to meet all the requirements:

Deadline

Deliverables

August 12, 2010

CUC provides updated DEQ list of corrections for Par. 36, Sanitary Deficiencies at Wellheads

August 13, 2010

CUC provides assessment of adequacy of other secondary containment areas to EPA Par. 22

August 16, 2010 (week of)

CUC and EPA participate in conference call with CUC organizational consultant for Reorganization Plan

August 25, 2010

CUC submits revised Tank Cleanout plan (including tank 105), Par. 26, S02 (SJS II.A.4)

August 27, 2010

EPA responds to revised response equipment list and calcs and Dec. 11 letter for par. 43 FRP (S02 Par. 43, SJS II.A.3)

August 30, 2010

■ CUC submits report that provides status of \$4.05M DOI grant projects, including requests for projects and dates of requests, projects funded and associated dates, project funding amounts, amount of funding remaining, proposed use for those funds. CUC has agreed to include copies of requests and approvals. (SJS II.A.1)
■ CUC must contract and design Pipeline, Par. 47 and 52 (SJS II.A.8)
■ EPA to respond to SJS II.A.2 assessment for secondary containment on or before

September 2, 2010

■ CUC HR to submit vetted list to EPA for executive director; CUC HR to submit vetted list to EPA for deputy executive director
■ CUC schedule conference call with EPA to discuss progress with Reorganization Plan

September 3, 2010

■ CUC submits to EPA the CFO certification of completion of NARUC training (Par. 14).
■ CUC submits an updated plan/schedule showing how CUC will achieve full compliance with Par. 32a Water Meter Installation, Reading and Billing Program Plan by Jan 31, 2011

September 10, 2010

■ CUC to submit vetted list to EPA for Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager ("DM")
■ CUC must have complied with all PP4 workplan requirements, Par. 38, S02 (SJS, II.A.7)
■ CUC should have RFP ready for assessment, response and clean up of onshore oil spills, Par. 12 (this is not a required date, but in good faith CUC must move on this) in conjunction with Par. 20 S02
■ EPA to respond to revised tank cleanout plan, Par. 26 (if approved, CUC to implement according to plan). If not approved, CUC has 20 days to respond.

September 15, 2010

■ EPA responds to IFP and CUC letter of August 6, 2010.
■ EPA responds to Scope of Work and Request for Proposal for Master Plan (Par. 66). (CUC shall provide a copy of nationally advertised RFP ad)

■ CUC must complete all Sanitary Deficiencies at Wellheads per DEQ list, (par. 36, SJS I(c)(6))
■ EPA responds with acceptable applicants from list for executive director

■ EPA responds with acceptable applicants from list for deputy executive director

CUC must have awarded approved PP3 workplan contract, Par. 35 S02

September 17, 2010

■ CUC HR to submit vetted list to EPA for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor ("WTPOS")
■ EPA responds with acceptable applicants from list for Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager

■ EPA responds and provides comments to CUC on April 14 and 15 submissions on Par 29 and 30 Chlorination and Disinfection Program
■ EPA responds to II.A.7 PP4 workplan

October 1, 2010

CUC and EPA to meet and confer re 60 day report

October 3, 2010

CUC submits executed OSRO agreement, Par. 43 FRP (S02 Par. 43, SJS II.A.3)

October 7, 2010

CUC to submit Reorganization Plan fully incorporating EPA comments

October 8, 2010

EPA responds with acceptable applicants from list Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor ("WTPOS")

October 15, 2010

■ CUC to execute a contract to conduct immediate assessment and cleanup of onshore oil spills (to remain in effect until CUC has internal capability to conduct clean ups)(S02, Par 12, II.A.9)
■ EPA responds to CUC Dec. 15, 2009 letter on Par. 18 Drinking Water and Wastewater Engineering Section

October 22, 2010

■ CUC to submit 60 day report to the Court (SJS IV.B): must include report of Federal Funds and Grants
■ CUC to award PP3 workplan contract (S02, Par 35, SJS II.A.10)

October 28, 2010

■ CUC Date of Hire for Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager

October 29, 2010

■ Governor appoints new executive director
■ CUC to submit final Chlorination and Disinfection Program per Par. 29 and 30

November 5, 2010

■ Date of Hire for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor ("WTPOS")
■ EPA responds to Reorganization Plan submission

November 12, 2010

Date of hire for deputy executive director—Water and Wastewater

November 13, 2010

CUC status report with the court

November 15, 2010

CUC must complete Tank 104 cleanout—all oil removed and tank cleaned, JS Par. 5 (SJS II.A.5)
CUC's contractor/CUC PMIC must have contract for PP4 signed (SJS II.A.7).

November 30, 2010

■ CUC final IFP submission to EPA
■ CUC final Reorganization Plan: within 90 days CUC submits to EPA draft staffing plan and schedule (Re-calendar this item when approved)
■ CUC final Par. 18 Drinking Water and Wastewater Engineering Section (as a separate document or as part of the Reorganization Plan—specify with Reorg submittal if appropriate)

December 7, 2010

CUC must have completed procurement and execute contract for secondary containment (S02 Par 22, SJS II.A.2)

December 10, 2010

CUC must have complied with EPA approved PP 1 and 2, Par. 23 S02

December 15, 2010

CUC must have implemented PP3 Workplan, Par. 35 S02

December 22, 2010

Second 60 day report to the Court
CUC Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager has reported for work

December 29, 2010

■ CUC executive director has reported to work
■ CUC deputy executive director has reported to work

December 31, 2010

■ CUC to complete Par. 32a, 32b and 32c, Water Meter Installation, Reading and Billing Program Plan

■ CUC must have completed Kumoi Well Sanitary Deficiencies at Wellheads, Par. 36 (SJS I(c)(6))
■ CUC HR Date of Hire for all DRC positions, Par. 19b (must begin work within 60 days)(SJS I(c)(7))

■ CUC must have submitted a Rota Power Plant Workplan (S02, Par. 35, SJS II.A.12)
■ EPA responses to CUC prior submissions on S01 items 25, 28, 34, 35, 39, 41, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 68 (SJS III)

January 5, 2011

CUC Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Supervisor ("WTPOS") has reported for work

January 14, 2011

■ CUC has completed fieldwork for PP3 workplan contract (S02, Par 35, SJS II.A.10)
■ EPA approval or response to IFP submission.

January 15, 2011

CUC completion of all Secondary Containment requirements, Par. 22 S02

January 30, 2011

Field work completed on PP 1 and 2 Workplan and compliance with all requirements of S02, Par. 23 (SJS II.A.6)

January 31, 2011

CUC in full compliance for Water Meter Installation (32a) and Meter Reading/Billing (32b) and Billing on consumption (32c)—send confirmation to EPA

February 1, 2011

EPA responses to S0 items 23, 24, and 33(SJS III)
FRP response equipment procured and on site, Par. 43 S02 (SJS II.A.3)

February 14, 2011

Final chance to submit IFP if disapproved in January.

February 15, 2011

CUC must be in compliance with all Tank Cleanout Plan Requirements (S02, Par 26, SJS II.A.4)

March 1, 2011

■ CUC HR all DRC positions, Par. 19b have reported to work
■ EPA responses to S01 items 20, 21, 26a, 27a, 27b, 27c, 38, 40a, 40b, and 40c (SJS III) (CUC must respond within 90 days to 27 and 40)

March 7, 2011

CUC must have completed secondary containment requirements in S02 Par 22 (SJS II.A.2)

March 10, 2011

CUC corrosion and cathodic protection workplan for PP 1 and 2 (S02, Par 32, SJS II.A.11)

March 15, 2011

Field work completed on PP4 workplan (S02, Par. 38, SJS II.A.7)(PMIC)

March 30, 2011

CUC to submit fully audited annual financial statement for previous fiscal year (S02 71, 57, SJS IV.D)

April 1, 2011

CUC completion of Wastewater collection O&M Manuals (S01 22, SJS I.C.8)

April 15, 2011

CUC submits interim FRP (S02 Par. 43, SJS II.A.3)

April 24, 2011

CUC pipeline completion of construction, Par. 47 and 52

June 1, 2011

New Pipeline must be constructed (S02, Par 47, 52, SJS II.A.8)

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Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The 'He's a Muslim' canard

It's easy to sympathize with President Obama over the drumbeat of misrepresentations of his religion, place of birth and even the validity of his Social Security number. But in protesting too much that he is a Christian—and one, moreover, who prays daily—the White House may be encouraging the impression that there is a religious test for the presidency and that a Muslim would fail it.

Such defensiveness is unedifying in the context of a religiously pluralist society. Also, like the irrational opposition to the construction of an Islamic community center in New York City, it could confirm suspicions in the Muslim world that this country is hostile to Islam.

The White House insisted on Obama's Christian bona fides after last week's release of a Pew Research Center poll showing that 18 percent of respondents thought he was a Muslim, compared with 11 percent who expressed that belief in March 2009. The poll suggested that 34 percent of Americans believe the president is a Christian, down from 48 percent who said so last year. The poll was taken before the president expressed his support for the right of Muslims to erect the community center, which would include a room for prayer, two blocks from the site of the 9/11 attack. In a *Time* magazine poll conducted after Obama's remarks, 24 percent of respondents said they thought the president was a Muslim and 47 percent that he was a Christian.

An Obama spokesman minimized the importance of the poll. Yet a clergyman who is one of Obama's spiritual advisers—and who also counseled President George W. Bush—materialized to complain that "never in the history of modern-day presidential politics has a president confessed his faith in the Lord and folks basically call him a liar." (Indeed, Obama told a Christian magazine during the 2008 campaign that "I believe in the redemptive death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe that that faith gives me a path to be cleansed of sin and have eternal life.")

The White House's sensitivity to the canard that Obama is a Muslim no doubt reflects the knowledge that many of those who propagate it believe that adherence to Islam is a disqualification for the presidency. But too strenuous and self-conscious a rebuttal runs the risk of encouraging that very view.

One pollster suggested that growing misconceptions about the president's religion reflected the fact that Obama hadn't "made religion a part of his public persona" as much as he did during the campaign. Instead of flaunting his Christian faith, the president should urge Americans to honor the spirit as well as the letter of the Constitution, which says that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

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Obama, midterm elections and the 2012 race

Sixteen years ago, as the summer of 1994 came to a close, then-President Clinton could see that his party's congressional campaign was in trouble. "Hillary had called our old pollster Dick Morris for his assessment," Clinton recalled in his autobiography. "Dick took a survey for us and the results were discouraging. People didn't feel their lives were improving and they were sick of all the fighting in Washington. Apparently they thought divided government would force us to work together." That November, Republicans swept Democrats from power in the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years.

In the summer of 2010, the news has been bad for Democrats again. Mired in unemployment, the economy seems to be slowing down rather than speeding up. Most voters don't think President Obama's policies have had any positive effect, and an increasing number say they are willing to give the Republican alternatives—tax cuts and spending cuts—a try. Discontented Republicans are fired up about voting; discontented Democrats are likely not to vote at all. And just as in 1994, many independents—the swing voters who hold the decisive votes in close elections—say they like the idea of divided government, with each party keeping the other in check.

Democrats know they are heading for a major setback; the only question is, how big?

"It's getting a little late for lucky breaks," acknowledged Geoff Garin, a leading Democratic pollster. "At a certain level, the only thing that matters is economic pessimism, and the level of economic pessimism has gotten worse over the last few months."

Already, Democrats have begun arguing over whether Obama could have played his hand better. Liberals complain that the president has been too ready to compromise; centrists say, on the contrary, that he has made himself look too liberal. Some complain that Obama has failed to offer voters a narrative, an overarching vision of where he wants to take the country.

Obama's defenders point to the fact that Ronald Reagan's popularity sank even lower during his first term and argue that there's nothing wrong with this presidency that a good economic recovery wouldn't fix. True, but if the recovery continues at its current agonizing pace, Obama can't count on it for much help this fall. Republicans, of course, are hoping Obama's troubles are like those of another former president, Jimmy Carter, who didn't lose control of Congress but did lose the White House after only one term.

The Carter precedent bolsters a counterintuitive point that Democrats don't like to admit: As Obama approaches his own 2012 campaign for re-election, he may be better off if Republicans win a majority in the House this fall.

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



"If Democrats keep control of both houses, it will be by the skin of their teeth, but they will still be held responsible by voters for the state of the country in 2012," said Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster. "It will probably be easier for Obama to win re-election if Republicans take over the House and Senate. He'd have a Republican Congress to run against."

If that's true, the most interesting historical analogy at the moment isn't between Obama and Reagan or Obama and Carter but between Obama and Clinton, the most recent Democratic president to lose control of Congress and survive to win a second term.

When Newt Gingrich's Republicans took over the House in 1994, Clinton announced that he had heard the voters' message and tacked dramatically toward the center. "The era of big government is over," Clinton said. He went on to make limits on domestic spending a centerpiece of his agenda. Then, when Gingrich's Republicans pressed for draconian budget cuts and shut down the government to dramatize their stand, Clinton charged them with extremism—and rallied voters to his side.

Obama may face a similar choice next year if a new Republican majority seeks to cut taxes, slash spending and dismantle his newly passed healthcare law. Wrestling with a Republican Congress would give Obama a chance to move back toward the post-partisan center he talked about during his 2008 campaign.

Pulling a Clinton by moving to the center would be the easiest way for Obama to improve his chances of re-election in 2012. He could then remind voters that he has always promised to cut the deficit, agree with Republicans that deficit-cutting should start immediately, and then wrestle with them over how.

The purer, more difficult way would be to emulate Reagan and announce that he plans to "stay the course." The risk of that strategy, of course, is that he might end up emulating Carter instead.

More than once, Obama has said, "I'd rather be a really good one-term president than a mediocre two-term president." Many of his fellow Democrats hope those aren't his only choices.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The suns of August on immigration

The birthday of the mother of my two autistic children and mine make bookends in August, and the number of family celebrations on both sides of our family in August are too numerous that August was literally experienced as the warm months when I was still living in the temperate zone. My late Irish father-in-law once asked if the newbie immigrants from India who were getting too prominent at Ohio U have the same rights as my native born brother-in-law. He was not mean, just fearful.

Glen Beck warmly acknowledged feeling "sorry" for previously calling President Obama a "racist." Of course, with the talk of a Palin-Beck ticket in 2012, this is a deft move and Beck is not known for a restrained tongue. For one who claims to "tell it like it is," calling Obama a racist might not be politically astute, but racist as a descriptive term for one who factors in racial qualities into an equation, I would hope that Obama is a racist, as I am as well, by that definition. But Beck meant "racist" as promoting racism, the preferential treatment of a particular race in legal and social rights. That's a different story, something like the pot calling the kettle black!

The United States may be a country of immigrants as it has more of us today than the rest of the world combined. But with a racial caveat; at the creation of the nation in 1776, 80 percent of the population was of white British ancestry, with the rest of European lineage like the Scots, Irish and the French. Not a few African slaves were also present, but not of their own accord.

The European-Anglo concentration was put in place with the Naturalization Act of 1790, which decreed: "any alien, being a free white person, may be admitted to become a citizen of the United States." 1952 was the last of 52 court cases filed since 1790 that dealt with the issue of who qualified as a "white person" for purposes of immigration.

European immigration to the new world picked up after the wars

in Europe in 1820. American immigration laws banned Africans (until 1870) and most East and South Asians (until 1952). Banned in other countries, we were open to Catholics and Jews (Iberians, Middle Easterners and Northern Africans were not white). Ellis Island opened in 1892.

The Supreme Court decided that the federal government had sole control over immigration in 1875. Europeans were welcomed with open arms; the same could not be said for many others. In 1875, Congress banned Chinese immigrant workers, Asian women (might become prostitutes), and convicts (Brits sent their inmates to Australia). A decade-long Chinese Exclusion Act became law in 1882, becoming permanent in 1904. Newly acquired colonial Filipinos in the pages of the *New York Times* (which included the Guam in the national imagination), in the social Darwinism of the time, were depicted as monkeys swinging on tropical vines.

Our history with Mexico is one of exclusion even of the ones who were native and resident of New Mexico and California prior to the treaty of 1840. With the Bolsheviks in Russia, anti-immigration fears were fanned lest foreigners threaten American values. A quota system was established based on national origins. Alien registration began in 1940, the predecessor of the "green card."

Not until 1965 did the quota system, friendly to Atlantic folks welcomed by the Statue of Liberty but less so to those who entered through San Francisco's Angel Islands, receive an overhaul. Young Ted Kennedy championed family-based immigration that opened the floodgates of Asia in 1965. Reagan left his mark on immigration with the Amnesty Act of 1986, providing a procedural pathway for those illegally in the country to become legal. CNMI residents also become Americans by executive fiat. Suddenly, bland "for whites only" became America colorfully beautiful!

Now, anti-immigrant sentiments has Arizona with intrusive policies

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Vergara is a regular contributor to the *Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section*.



ing methods, and the CNMI wary about what to do with its 20,000-some legal residents, especially those who had been legal residents for five years who qualify under federal laws to apply for permanent residency. Congress asked for a CNMI status report and recommendations. The DoI put together one while the Commonwealth was busy suing the feds claiming that Congress passed, and the White House signed, an unconstitutional law. DoI did not bother to consult the CNMI on its report, is the oft-repeated claim. Duh!

We have a proposal to put a "survey" (not a legal referendum) on the Nov. 2 ballot on whether one agrees with the DoI. Did we not just have Senator Manglona remind us to read the document more carefully? This proposal smacks of "bullying." Would PSS lead some reading lessons up the Hill, please?

Glen Beck wants to "restore honor" in America. Fine. Let's begin with the speech that preceded his, the one that keeps repeating, "I have a dream." Immigration in America has always been a human rights issue as much as it is a legal one. We proceed with our intentions, not our fears. All DoI said was that we already have the laws to allow improved status for those legally residing in a sovereign realm of the United States. It just gave some options, already done elsewhere, on how that can be done. OK, Charlie, ignore the November extra ballot. I will.

More than a mosque

The controversy over a proposed mosque near ground zero in Lower Manhattan preoccupies an increasing number of Americans, who now are hearing rhetorical bigotry more disgraceful and dangerous than anything admitted to our national conversation for decades.

According to a Rasmussen poll published Monday, 85 percent of the country's voters say they are following stories about the controversy, a 35 percent increase over the level of interest the survey found last month. Nearly 6 in 10 voters say they are "following the story very closely."

Some of this may have a bit to do with the season: August is a notoriously slow month for news, and lacking a natural disaster or missing blonde to obsess over, the cable networks and commentators who fuel the 24-hour news cycle have made the proposed Islamic center and mosque the centerpiece in their overheated echo chamber. Still, even allowing for the timing, it's clear that this controversy has tapped a troubling vein of popular suspicion and unease concerning Muslim-Americans and their beliefs.

Unhappy history tells us that this is dangerous territory, and the willingness of some to exploit it is one of this affair's sorriest aspects. Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich, for example, has compared those who support the mosque's construction to Nazis, who "don't have the right to put up a sign next to the Holocaust museum in Washington." A Republican National Committee member from Iowa insists that President Obama is a Muslim. (If so, what the devil was all that Jeremiah Wright stuff about?) Evangelist Franklin Graham tells CNN that the president carries "the seed of

Islam"—whatever that is.

One of the most distressing things is how rapidly this controversy has shifted from an ostensibly principled objection—the center's backers have a legal and constitutional right to build on the site, but it is "insensitive" to do so—to a blanket objection to Islam in America. Such a slide was entirely predictable, because the minute you impute collective responsibility for 9/11 to U.S. Muslims, generalized expressions of bigotry are rendered licit. Thus, we have organized campaigns opposing the construction of mosques in places as distant from ground zero as Wisconsin, Tennessee and Kentucky. In Santa Clara, Calif., a group objects to a mosque adding a minaret, while in Temecula, Calif., Pastor Bill Rensch argues that his Muslim neighbors ought not be allowed to build a mosque on a site adjoining his Calvary Baptist Church.

Of all the dangerous nonsense being batted about, nothing quite tops a recent piece in the National Review Online in which Nina Shea, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, argues that the mosque has provoked "a heated debate" about the "limits" of religious freedom "in the age of Islamist terrorism." The federal government, she alleges, has a right to "defend itself" against those "promoting radical ideas in the context of Islam." To that end, "shutting down a particular religious establishment—or preventing it from being built—does not constitute barring a religion as a whole. ... It could all depend on what the building is used for ... (and) the impact of the preaching and instruction that takes place there."

Let's get this straight: The government is going to get into the business of evaluating what's going to be taught in a house of wor-

By TIM RUTTEN

Los Angeles Times

Timothy Rutten is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.



ship before issuing a building permit? Once a mosque, church or synagogue is constructed, government agents are going to enter, monitor the preaching and, if they deem it a threat to somebody's notion of security, shut the place down? (The smoke rising from such an event would issue from the ruin of the First Amendment.)

Moreover, why stop with mosques? In Gainesville, Fla., the Dove World Church wants to burn hundreds of copies of the Quran. Some of us regard book-burning as a threat to the Constitution. Let's shut them down. In Pensacola, Fla., Baptist pastor Chuck Baldwin teaches his flock that Abraham Lincoln was a tyrant, that nullification and secession are valid concepts and that we need a second revolution. These are the ideas that provoked the Confederate treason and Civil War. Shut him down. (We're not going to do either of those things because if the First Amendment means anything, it's that some people have a right to spout idiocy and others have a right to listen—or not.)

We do need to stop, take a deep collective breath and pull back from the edge. The abyss on the other side is dark and deep.

Letter to the Editor

A new CNMI industry potential

The recent discovery that fruit bats were abundant in the Northern Islands made me think about how much the local people love to eat fruit bats and how other nations close to our borders would love to add this delicacy to their menus at home and in restaurants. There is also an abundance of goats in the Northern Islands and their population continues to grow. My question is, what are we going to do? Are we just going to watch and let them overpopulate the islands or are we going to take advantage of the potential these animals offer? In the past, we have just gone up to the Northern Islands and literally slaughtered a bunch of goats without getting any real economic benefits for our efforts.

I would like to suggest that our government invest in one boat that can be dedicated to local farmers who are willing to

travel to the Northern Islands to harvest these two animals for retail sale in the CNMI and export to nations where we can get the most for our product. With the products being a *free commodity* to farmers in the CNMI it will open doors for a new food source and a new source of revenue for farmers and the government. The government will get income from the renting of the "authorized harvesting vessel and the monitoring of the harvest" which will be needed to make sure we don't overharvest these animals so this new part of our agriculture industry can maintain itself and even grow.

This is a simple solution to complement the big problem we are facing with turning the economy around. Jobs will surely be created and money can clearly be made from selling fruit bats and goat meat—we just need to create a plan and execute it. But from what I know about the politics of the CNMI, we will be arguing over who, what, why and when until it is forgotten about, which is one of our biggest weaknesses. We always seem to drop the ball figuratively and we only take action when we have to. I just won-

der how long we will have to wait and how much suffering we have to endure before some local person realizes Mr. Bennett was right and something will be done to begin the harvesting of these animals. I say this because another problem is many locals don't want ideas from outsiders regardless of how good they may be and that is the true irony for someone to be willing to suffer than to accept the good advice of an outsider.

Anyway, I have tossed the idea out there for everyone to see, let's just hope and pray the powers that be will pick it up and do something with it. This idea is not the complete solution but it can be part of the solution as it would indeed be an ideal business venture for the people that live in the Northern Islands if our government and/or U. S. delegate will help them get it started. The Marianas used to be a big exporter of several commodities and we can become an exporter again if we will just do the work.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with scattered showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼78°

▲86° ▼77°

▲87° ▼77°

▲87° ▼78°

▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼72
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼75
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲59	▼50
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲80	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼74
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼51
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲57	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼79
New York	Sunny	▲93	▼73
Osaka	Sunny	▲95	▼78
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼51
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲84	▼61
Salem	Showers	▲64	▼57
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼59
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲79	▼74
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼80
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲95	▼74

Tides

		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM	Today	10:35 PM	11:08 AM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM	Wednesday	11:26 PM	11:55 AM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM	Thursday		12:52 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM	Friday	12:21 AM	1:49 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM	Saturday	1:21 AM	2:44 PM

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

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E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.

Fax: (670) 235-3740

Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center,

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 29, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5	C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily	DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily	DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA				NAGOYA-SAIPAN			
DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily	DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20	

Business

BankPacific re-elects Fish, Endo to board

BankPacific Where Others Put Branches, We Place Roots.

Mark Fish and Kaz Endo were unanimously reelected to the board of BankPacific during the annual meeting of the bank's shareholders last Aug. 28.

Fish is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of the bank, while Endo is the founder and president of inhouse Creative, Inc., a leading marketing design firm in the region. Endo was also elected assistant treasurer of the bank.

Other members of the board include Frank Shimizu, vice chair and treasurer; Joaquin Arriola, counsel and secretary; John Camacho, assistant secretary; Herbert Johnston, Jr., and Philip Flores, chairman and president, respectively.

The bank's holding company also announced the payment of record dividends in the amount of \$0.32 per share payable Monday, Aug. 30. This follows BankPacific's best year in earnings in its 56 years and a 33.7 percent growth in earnings over fiscal year 2009's.

"We thank our staff and management who have worked so hard to reach our record earnings and to allow us the ability to declare our dividends," said bank president Philip Flores.

With respect to the future, Flores responded "we're bullish. The best lies ahead for our bank and for our communities." (PR)

IT&E completes \$1M expansion project



IT&E recently completed a \$1-million capacity and coverage expansion project that entailed the installation of three new CDMA cell sites on Saipan at Gualo Rai and Kagman, and on Rota at the Northern Marianas College Library.

The upgrade is expected to enhance voice and data capacity and coverage throughout the network, including the

zone between Songsong and Sinapalo villages.

In addition to the expanded coverage, IT&E integrated a second EV-DO carrier that doubled EV-DO capacity on Saipan's busiest districts to address the anticipated future demand increases during periods of peak usage, and provided faster download speeds to IT&E subscribers who already enjoy the fastest network in the Marianas.

The project also included a

hardware and software upgrade of the Packet Data Serving Nodes and EV-DO modules that serve the CNMI and Guam.

"We're proud to be the first choice for communication in the Marianas, and we made these improvements to stay ahead of the demand of our customers," said IT&E executive vice president Larry Knecht. "This project is an investment in IT&E's future. It provides our subscriber base with an enhanced network

that will exceed their demand for a faster and more complete communications experience."

Customers who use IT&E's BlackBerry service, aircards, or smartphones can visit IT&E Customer Service where a knowledgeable Wireless Technician will upgrade their device to provide faster speeds on IT&E's unparalleled data network.

"We brought our local customers a higher level of service

that will better meet their needs in the Marianas," said IT&E engineering manager Velma Palacios. "The completion of this project enables us to continue our progress in other areas in which we can better serve our customers throughout our regional network."

For more information about IT&E's coverage and services, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483) at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road.

BP's life on frontiers of energy industry at risk

LONDON (AP)—At a celebration of BP's centennial last October, CEO Tony Hayward boasted to guests that the oil company "lives on the frontiers of the energy industry."

But this week, in the first major sign that the Gulf of Mexico oil spill may have caused lasting damage to the company's long-term strategy of embracing projects with high risks, BP was frozen out of a potentially lucrative license to drill for oil off the coast of Greenland.

The Arctic setback comes as BP's plans to begin deep-water drilling in Libya and the North Sea have been delayed, and its vast offshore U.S. operations remain under a cloud.

BP may face less difficulty in carrying out risky projects in parts of the world where regulation is less restrictive, such as in Angola, Russia and Iraq. But it can ill afford another major accident as years of investigations and costly lawsuits linked to the

Gulf spill loom.

To help cover the costs of the spill, BP has begun shedding assets around the world, with a goal of raising \$30 billion. Analysts say that cleanup, fines and lawsuits could cost BP more than that, although the company appears to have avoided some worst-case environmental scenarios, like oil washing up the East Coast.

By selling mostly land-based assets, BP is signaling that it intends to remain a deep-water driller. Still, with Hayward gone soon, incoming CEO Bob Dudley is expected to mimic the safety-first strategy pursued by ExxonMobil Corp. after its historic 1989 spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound. For example, Exxon quickly appointed an executive to develop a new inspection system that would examine every major piece of equipment within the company's global operation.

"I don't see (BP) marching



off into new frontiers any time soon," says Dougie Youngson, an analyst with Arbuthnot Securities in London.

That would be a shift from the past decade or so.

Its aggressive growth, including its acquisition of Amoco

in 1998, made it the largest producer of oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico. And, until the deadly explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig on April 20, it would have been expected to be at the center of the new oil rush in the Arctic.

Interest in the Arctic is rising after Cairn Energy PLC's announcement this week that it had found gas off Greenland's west coast. BP said it had decided not to bid for a drilling license after showing interest in the preliminary stages of the bid round.

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) questions

This past week I was asked several questions about the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). I will discuss two in this article. The FMLA is quite complex and many companies that I am aware of struggle with its implementation. Having the law and the regulations close at hand for help when needed is a must. All human resource staff and managers must be sure that they refer to the new regulations that became effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Question 1: "I have an employee who has requested FMLA leave to assist her daughter during her pregnancy and delivery. Her daughter is an adult. Is the employee authorized to take FMLA leave?"

I asked the questioner if the employee's daughter was disabled or if there were complications with the pregnancy. The questioner said that she had asked also and was told "no" to both questions and that the mother said that she just wanted to be there to support and help her daughter.

While the desire to be with her daughter and to be of help is understandable and commendable, it does not qualify the employee for FMLA leave. Assuming that both the company qualifies to be covered by the FMLA and that the employee also meets the eligibility requirements, an employee is authorized to take FMLA for the following situations:

- for the birth and care of a newborn child of the employee;
- for placement with the employee of a son or daughter for adoption or foster care;
- to care for a spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition; or
- to take medical leave when the employee is unable to work because of a serious health condition.

As the situation in question does not involve a member of the Armed Forces I have omitted any reference to military family leave.

Although an employee is authorized to take FMLA to care for a serious health condition, the law does place restrictions upon this right:

- The definition of "son or daughter" is limited to children under the age of 18 or 18 years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability. See 29 USC 2612(12).
- The FMLA authorizes leave for the employee under the "birth and care of a newborn child" provision, not as a serious health condition. Pregnancy, "by itself," is not considered a "serious medical condition" qualifying an employee for leave to care for a child. A parent can take FMLA leave for a minor child's pregnancy only if the pregnancy presented complications that made it a serious health condition, and for an adult child only if the adult child is otherwise disabled and cannot care for herself.

However, in accordance with a company's leave policy and work scheduling needs, an employee can take earned annual leave to care for the daughter. Additionally, nothing in the FMLA prohibits an employer from allowing unpaid leave in excess of the statutory benefit.

Question 2: "I have a situation that qualifies for FMLA leave. I wanted to take the leave without pay and save my leave for a vacation later after the FMLA. My supervisor told me that I had to take all of my paid sick leave and annual leave as part of the FMLA leave. Can he do this?"

FMLA leave is unpaid leave, so an employee can take FMLA leave even if they don't have any paid leaves. However, if your employment provides you with paid leaves, you can be required to take all of your paid leaves (sick leave, annual leave or other paid time off) concurrent with the FMLA leave. The employer is required to advise you of this requirement by checking the box on the FMLA Designation Notice. An exception to this occurs if you are receiving

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

ing disability benefits, such as Workers' Compensation, during the FMLA leave, in which case neither you nor your employer can require the substitution of paid leave. However, paid leave can be used to supplement a benefit that is lower than your normal salary, if both you and your employer agree.

Can an employer deny your request to use paid leave for FMLA leave? Yes, if your use of the leave does not comply with the same terms and conditions of the employer's policy that apply to other employees for the use of such leave. This could include use of paid leave for half day FMLA absences, if the company only allows use of leave in full day increments, or if you fail to give the required advance notice period, or if sick leave can only be used for personal illness and your FMLA leave is for another reason.

The Family and Medical Leave Act is enforced by the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division. You can contact them at 233-0730 to discuss any questions you might have.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipantribune.com.

Nation

5 years after Katrina, a revival not yet complete

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Gulf Coast residents tried to put Hurricane Katrina behind them on Sunday, marking its fifth anniversary by casting wreaths into the water to remember the hundreds killed. But part of the catastrophe lives on, in abandoned homes still bearing spray-painted circles indicating they had been searched and whether bodies were found inside.

President Barack Obama joined those hailing the recovery made so far in New Orleans, which he said has become a “symbol of resilience and community.” In a neighborhood that has seen little of that recovery, the Lower 9th Ward, it was the failures that seemed more apparent to residents.

“It don’t seem like much is getting done,” said Charlene LaFrance, a 42-year-old teacher who watched commemoration events on Claiborne Avenue. Brass bands played dirges and marches and politicians spoke about the nation’s failure to do enough to rebuild New Orleans, in particular the Lower 9th Ward.

The neighborhood, down river from the French Quarter, was devastated when the floodwall on the Industrial Canal toppled over and unleashed a wall of water that knocked scores of homes off their foundations. Many of the more than 1,800

people killed by Katrina died in the Lower 9th Ward, and only about a quarter of the 5,400

homes there before the storm have been rebuilt.

“This is hallowed ground

now,” said Marc Morial, a former New Orleans mayor and the president of the National

Urban League.

He told a jubilant crowd that the Lower 9th Ward can be rebuilt. “All it needs is decent, strong levees that don’t break.”

The Army Corps of Engineers is nearing completion on a levee system for New Orleans that the agency says should be able to withstand a Katrina-like storm once it is finished next summer. The Lower 9th Ward is now protected by a massive, dam-like structure.

Obama, speaking at Xavier University, cited progress made in the recovery but added that there are still too many vacant lots, too many people unemployed and “too many New Orleanians who have not been able to come home.” The recession and the Gulf oil spill have made it even tougher for the area to bounce back, he said.

“My administration is going to stand with you and fight alongside you until the job is done,” Obama pledged.

Ceremonies also were held in Mississippi, where at least 175 people were killed by the storm. In Biloxi, U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor compared the Gulf Coast to the area’s oak trees—scarred by

the storm but strong enough to survive.

At a marble wall in Shell Beach, La., honoring the 163 people killed in coastal St. Bernard Parish, more than 100 people braved Sunday’s soggy weather as parish officials read aloud the victims’ names.

Diane Phillips, who lost two cousins and several friends in the storm, volunteered to lay a wreath in the bayou. Some wiped away tears as the wreath floated away.

“You think of the whole entire parish and everything that we lost that day and everything that we’ve brought back since then,” said Phillips, 51, of Hopedale.

Gladys Nunez and Linda Wells didn’t know each other before the ceremony—but both knew many of those whose names are etched in the memorial. Nunez wrapped her arm around Wells, who was visiting the site for the first time.

“I had to come see for myself and try to put this behind me,” said Wells, 50, of Chalmette.

Nunez, 68, of Toca, said: “It’s something we’ll live with for the rest of our life. It never goes away. Katrina showed no mercy.”

ACROSS THE NATION

Shootings leaves Mormon official, suspect dead

VISALIA, Calif. (AP)—A Mormon church official was shot dead between services on Sunday, and less than an hour later, the man suspected of the crime also died after a shoot-out with police. Clay Sannar, 42, a lay bishop with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Visalia, southeast of Fresno, died after being shot in his office, said Visalia police chief Colleen Mestas. Soon after the first shooting, a caller identified himself to police as the shooter. Police responded, and there was a confrontation with several shots exchanged, said Mestas. The suspect was hit multiple times. He was taken to nearby Kaweah Delta Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. He has not been identified yet. No officers were injured, Mestas said.

Las Vegas logs 5 murder-suicides since Aug. 7

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Police say murder-suicides are on the rise in the Las Vegas area because of a bad economy. Las Vegas police say there were five murder-suicides from Aug. 7 to Aug. 20 for a total of 10 victims. A gun was used in each case. In four of the five cases, the shooter was a man. In one instance, a housekeeper found Donald and Barbara Romano, both 74, dead at their million-dollar Summer-

lin home. The couple, heavily involved in the real estate business, had been financially crippled by the recession. In another case, a bystander was wounded. The numbers of murder-suicides are apparently up, but no law enforcement agency keeps track of them. The FBI tracks homicides and health agencies track suicides, but nobody puts the numbers together.

Fire at proposed Tenn. mosque site probed by feds

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (AP)—Authorities are investigating a fire that damaged at least one construction vehicle at a Tennessee site where a new mosque is being built. Federal investigators won’t say whether they believe the fire early Saturday was intentionally set at the suburban Nashville project, which has faced vehement opposition.

Still, a spokeswoman for the Islamic Center of Murfreesboro said the fire has frightened the area’s Muslim community. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives spokesman Eric Kehn said Sunday the investigation was still in an early phase. The FBI and local sheriff are also investigating. The center has been in the community for decades, and the new facility represents an expansion. Opponents, while citing traffic and parking issues, have also implied the center would be a haven for terrorists.

Wright criticizes those who think Obama is Muslim

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The Rev. Jeremiah Wright, President Barack Obama’s controversial former pastor, accused people who wrongly believe Obama is Muslim of catering to political enemies during a fiery speech Sunday in Arkansas.

In his sermon at New Millennium Church in Little Rock, Wright criticized supporters of the Iraq war and defended former state Court of Appeals Judge Wendell Griffen for speaking out against it. Griffen serves as the church’s pastor.

Wright’s only reference to Obama came when he compared Griffen’s opponents to those who incorrectly think Obama is Muslim. The president, whose full name is Barack Hussein Obama, is Christian.

“Go after the military mindset ... and the enemy will come after you with everything,” Wright told the packed church.

“He will surround you with sycophants who will criticize you and ostracize you and put you beyond the pale of hope and say ‘you ain’t really a Baptist’ and say ‘the president ain’t really a Christian, he’s a Muslim. There ain’t no American Christian with a name like Barack Hussein,’” he added.

A poll released this month found that nearly one in five

people, or 18 percent, said they thought Obama was Muslim, up from the 11 percent in March 2009. The proportion who correctly said he was Christian was 34 percent, down from 48 percent in March of last year. The poll, conducted by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center and its affiliated Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, surveyed 3,003 people.

Obama cut ties with Wright

in 2008, after Wright’s more incendiary remarks hit the Internet during the presidential election.

At a National Press Club appearance in April 2008, Wright claimed the U.S. government could plant AIDS in the black community, praised Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan and suggested Obama was putting his pastor at arm’s length for political purposes while privately agreeing with him.

Obama denounced Wright as “divisive and destructive” and left Wright’s church in Chicago.

Griffen lost a re-election bid for the Arkansas Court of Appeals in 2008, after high profile battles with a state judicial panel over the rights of judges to speak out on political issues. Griffen was elected in May to a judicial post in Pulaski County, the state’s most populous county that includes Little Rock.

Obama says he isn’t worried about Muslim rumors

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—President Barack Obama said Sunday he isn’t worried about a recent poll showing that nearly one-fifth of Americans believe he is a Muslim. “The facts are the facts,” said Obama, who

is a Christian. In an interview broadcast on “NBC Nightly News,” the president blamed the confusion over his religious beliefs on “a network of misinformation that in a new media era can get churned out there constantly.”

A poll released earlier this month by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center showed that 18 percent of people believe Obama is Muslim. That was up from 11 percent who said so in March 2009. Just 34 percent

said Obama is Christian, down from 48 percent who said so last year.

“I’m not gonna be worrying too much about whatever rumors are floating on out there,” Obama said Sunday. “If I spend all my time chasing after that, then I wouldn’t get much done.”

Asked about persistent accusations that he wasn’t born in the United States, the president responded, “I can’t spend all my time with my birth certificate plastered on my forehead.”

NBC anchorman Brian Williams also asked Obama about conservative commentator Glenn Beck’s rally on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Saturday. While he didn’t

watch the event, Obama said, “I think that Mr. Beck and the rest of those folks were exercising their rights under our Constitution exactly as they should.”

The president acknowledged the ralliers’ concerns about the economy and terrorism and observed, “Given the fact that, you know, in none of these situations are you gonna fix things overnight, it’s not surprising that somebody like a Mr. Beck is able to stir up a certain portion of the country.”

Obama added: “I have no doubt that we are gonna rebound and rebound strong. But when you’re in the middle of it, and if you don’t have a job right now, it’s a tough, tough situation.”

Asia

HK marchers protest handling of bus tragedy



Filipino domestic workers react during a candle vigil as they prayed for the Hong Kong tourists who were killed in the Manila tourist bus hostage standoff in Hong Kong Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010.

HONGKONG (AP)—Hong Kongers marched in honor of eight locals killed in a bus hijacking in Manila, denouncing the Philippine government for botching the rescue operation and demanding justice for the dead.

Former police officer Rolando Mendoza commandeered a bus carrying a 20-member tour group visiting the Philippine capital last Monday, hoping to reverse his dismissal from the force on what he said were bogus robbery and extortion charges.

He released several children and elderly hostages early in the 12-hour

standoff, but later opened fire on the tourists. A police sniper killed Mendoza after eight tourists already were killed. Three others were seriously wounded, including one still in a coma.

The Philippines government ordered a thorough investigation, but that has done little to stem anger in this wealthy southern Chinese territory where violent crime is rare.

About 20 Hong Kong legislators led the crowd gathered at an urban park in a short ceremony honoring the dead before setting off on a march to the financial district. Po-

lice didn't estimate the size of the crowd, but organizers said about 80,000 people took part.

"That 80,000 people can show up in such a short period of time—it shows the anger and unity of the Hong Kong people," lawmaker Cheung Man-kwong said.

Hong Kongers blasted Manila police for what they called an amateurish rescue attempt.

"Everyone saw how the Philippine government mishandled the situation before TV cameras and the chaos in the country. As a Chinese person, I

surgent sanctuaries.

Last week, Karzai also criticized the U.S. plan to begin withdrawing troops starting next July and said the war on terror cannot succeed as long as the Taliban and their allies maintain safe havens in Pakistan.

In other comments, Karzai thanked Lammert for German assistance in rebuilding the Afghanistan's battered infrastructure and asked him to encourage German companies to invest in the country, especially in its promising mining sector, the presidential office said.

Germany maintains more than 4,500 troops in Afghanistan, based in the northern provinces of Kunduz and Badakhshan where the Taliban has stepped up attacks as part of an apparent strategy of spreading the fight from its strongholds in the country's southern and eastern regions.

Karzai's comments contradict statements from coalition commanders that a boost in foreign forces in Afghanistan to more than 140,000 has stopped the momentum of recent Taliban advances. They come amid a surge in fighting that has so far left 62 coalition troops dead this month, including 42 Americans.

"There should be a review of the strategy in the fight against terrorism, because the experience of the last eight years showed that the fight in the villages of Afghanistan has been ineffective apart from causing civilian casualties," Karzai was quoted as saying.

Karzai's statements come at a time when the Obama administration is ratcheting up pressure on the Afghan leader to do more to stamp out corruption. The Afghan government maintains that the U.S. should instead focus more on other fronts, including pressuring Pakistan to shut down in-

need to demand justice," 49-year-old worker Andy Wong said at Sunday's protest.

Manila's police chief has taken leave and four leaders of the assault team were relieved pending an investigation. Officials have said the firearms used by 200 police commandos will be tested to see if any of the hostages were hit by police gunfire.

Philippine presidential spokesman Herminio Coloma said Sunday that his country respects the right of Hong Kongers to express their sentiments. He promised to announce the results of a "comprehensive, fair and accurate" investigation in three weeks.

Starting Monday, a small group of Hong Kong forensic experts will be allowed to examine the bullet-peppered bus, Philippine National Police spokesman Agrimero Cruz said.

Local Filipino activists organized an interfaith service in memory of the victims earlier Sunday where they lit eight candles—one for each victim.

"We ask the Hong Kong people who are watching us not to blame us for what happened because we also did not want this kind of thing to happen," migrant worker Elma Oliva said.

Survivor Lee Ying-chuen, who along with her mother escaped with light injuries, said in an article published in Ming Pao Daily News the tourists thought about subduing Mendoza but never acted because he seemed friendly and promised to release his hostages.

"If we didn't wait for the police rescue operation and acted decisively, there might have been a different outcome. But the horrible thing is there are no 'ifs' in history," Lee wrote.

Millions of Pakistani kids risk waterborne disease

PABBI, Pakistan (AP)—Five-year-old Shahid Khan struggled to remain conscious in his hospital bed as severe diarrhea threatened to kill him. His father watched helplessly, stricken at the thought of losing his son—one of the only things the floods had not already taken.

The young boy is one of millions of children who survived the floods that ravaged Pakistan over the last month but are now vulnerable to a second wave of death caused by waterborne disease, according to the United Nations.

Khan's father, Ikramullah, fled Pabbi just before floods devastated the northwestern town about a month ago, abandoning his two-room house and all his possessions to save his wife and four children.

"I saved my kids. That was everything for me," said Ikramullah, whose 6-year-old son, Waqar, has also battled severe diarrhea in recent days. "Now I see I'm losing them. We're devastated."

Ten other children lay in beds near Khan at the diarrhea treatment center run by the World Health Organization in Pabbi, two of whom were in critical condition.

Access to clean water has always

been a problem in Pakistan, but the floods have worsened the situation significantly by breaking open sewer lines, filling wells with dirty water and displacing millions of people who must use the contaminated water around them.

Children are more vulnerable to diseases such as diarrhea and dysentery because they are more easily dehydrated. Many children in Pakistan also were malnourished before the floods, weakening their immune systems.

The Pakistani government and international aid groups have worked to get clean water to millions of people affected by the floods and treat those suffering from waterborne diseases. But they have been overwhelmed by the scale of the disaster, which has displaced a million more people in recent days.

The floods started in the northwest in late July after extremely heavy monsoon rains and surged south along the Indus River, killing more than 1,600 people, damaging or destroying more than 1.2 million homes and inundating one-fifth of the country—an area larger than England.

Some 3.5 million children are at imminent risk of waterborne disease and 72,000 are at high risk of death, according to the United Nations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesian volcano erupts again, spewing hot ash

TANAH KARO, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian volcano that had been dormant for more than four centuries erupted for the second day in a row Monday, spewing white clouds of smoke and ash more than 2,000 yards (meters) into the air, officials and witnesses said. Thousands of people living along the slopes of Mount Sinabung in North Sumatra province have been evacuated to emergency shelters, mosques and churches, said Priyadi Kardono, a spokesman for the National Disaster Management Agency. Their abandoned villages and crops are blanketed in heavy, gray soot. Mount Sinabung last erupted in 1600, so observers don't know its eruption pattern and are monitoring it closely for more activity. They raised the volcano's alert to the highest level after its first blast Sunday, which followed days of rumbling.

Mongolian Cabinet holds meeting in Gobi desert

GASHUUNII KHOOLOI, Mongolia (AP)—Top Mongolian officials donned dark green baseball caps reading "Save our planet" and set up chairs and tables in the sands of the Gobi desert for a Cabinet meeting aimed at drawing attention to climate change. The meeting of 12 government ministers was held in scorching heat Friday in Gashuunii Khooloi, a sandy valley in South Gobi province, about 415 miles (670 kilometers) south of Ulan-Bator, the country's capital. The ministers, dressed in suits and ties, arrived in the desert in jeeps after a 15-hour journey. Officials planted a Mongolian flag in the ground, set up long tables and chairs in the fine, golden sand and discussed climate change against the backdrop of a vast expanse of desert and a bright blue sky.

Japanese resort towns battle marauding monkey

TOKYO (AP)—Residents of neighboring resort towns in central Japan are waging a battle against a marauding monkey that has bitten dozens of people in the past few weeks—and the monkey is winning. Nearly 60 people in the towns of Mishima and Susono near the scenic Izu peninsula and Mount Fuji have been chomped by the macaque since mid-August, mostly on the calves. Mishima now publishes a daily "biting monkey" alert on the town website, posting where the animal was most recently spotted and warning residents to keep doors and windows shut. Fed up with the troublemaker, a group of about 130 officials—including police and zookeepers—conducted a massive monkey hunt Sunday in hopes of capturing the animal. Despite the show of force—many came armed with binoculars, nets and tranquilizer guns—the search was fruitless.

Earthquake in SW China injures 14; damages homes

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities and state media say a moderate earthquake has struck southwestern China, injuring 14 people and damaging hundreds of houses. No deaths have been reported. The U.S. Geological Survey put the quake's strength at magnitude 5.0 and said it occurred at 8:53 a.m. local time Sunday. The official Xinhua News Agency says the earthquake jolted Ningnan county in Sichuan province and neighboring Qiaojia county in Yunnan province, damaging up to 400 homes. Officials in the two provinces said a total of 14 people have been injured.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Newborn Hurricane Earl threatens north Caribbean

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Islanders set up emergency shelters and airlines canceled flights Sunday as newly born Hurricane Earl churned toward the northern Caribbean. Cruise lines diverted ships to avoid the storm's path. The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said that Earl, a Category 1 storm with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph), could hit the northern Leeward Islands later Sunday. Center forecasters said Earl could strengthen into a major hurricane as soon as Monday—probably while east of Puerto Rico. Major hurricanes are those Category 3 and higher. People on several islands stuffed shopping carts with bottled water, canned food, milk, candles and batteries, while some tourists scrambled to board flights home. Others enjoyed the beach while they could.

Nigeria: Vocal supporter of president kidnapped

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Nigerian police say kidnappers seized a man who claims to be the son of the nation's first prime minister. Police spokesman Moshood Jimoh told The Associated Press on Sunday that kidnappers seized Dr. Jhalil Tafawa Balewa. Jimoh said police shot one kidnapper and arrested another. The spokesman declined to say whether Tafawa Balewa was freed after the firefight. Tafawa Balewa, 60, says he is the son of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Nigeria's first prime minister who was killed in the country's 1966 coup. The Tafawa Balewa family disowned Jhalil in 2008, claiming he wasn't a son. It wasn't immediately clear if the man kidnapped was the same Jhalil.

Gold rush is growing threat to Suriname rainforest

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP)—It looks like a meteor strike: From out of nowhere, a huge clearing appears in the jungle—a deep rust-colored pit surrounded by mounds of dirt and thick stands of trees pushed to the side in dense piles of overturned soil. But this is no act of nature. It is the result of the steady labor of fewer than a dozen barefoot men, who have blasted away at the earth for three days with high-pressure water hoses and earth-movers, searching for gold and destroying a swathe of rainforest. The miners near a small town called Nieuw Koffiekamp, at the edge of Suriname's vast rainforest hinterland, planned to spend a week tearing into the soil and filtering it through toxic mercury. Then, they will start over again somewhere else.

New video shows emotional trapped Chilean miners

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—A new video released Sunday of 33 men trapped in a mine under Chile's Atacama Desert shows them sending greetings to their families, talking about how they are doing better since receiving food and breaking into tears as they talk about loved ones.

In the video, the men are shirtless because of the heat in the mine and wearing what look like white surgical pants, special clothing sent down to help keep them dry.

Most are upbeat, expressing gratitude to their families and the rescuers for the support they are receiving via handwritten notes sent to them through three small bore holes. Authorities also send food, water, medicine and other goods to them through the three holes.

But when it comes time to speak about their wives and children, many of the men break down.

"I'm sending my greetings to Angelica. I love you so much, darling," said 30-year-old Osman Araya, as his voice chokes and he begins to cry. "Tell my mother, I love you guys so much. I'll never leave you, I will fight to the end to be with you."

Araya and 32 fellow miners were trapped by the Aug. 5 collapse of the main shaft of the San Jose gold and silver mine in northern Chile. They only gained contact with the outside after 17 days—during which they rationed 48-hours worth of food and dug for water in the ground. On Monday, the men will equal a mark set by three miners who survived 25 days trapped in a flooded mine in southern China last year. Few other rescues have taken more than two weeks.

One miner explains to the family of 28-year-old Ariel Ticona that he didn't want to appear on camera—apparently because he is shy—but that he was sending his love to them and that, according to an unidentified speaker, he "is super happy and he is super, super, super well!"

This video, in contrast to the first 45-minute video released by the government on Thursday, shows little of the men's surroundings. Instead, it appears meant as a video postcard for loved ones, as each of the 12 men who speak to the camera are given about 30 seconds to talk.

At one point, the camera pans to a larger group of men, and several animated, joking voices can be heard throughout the tape.

One unidentified man, who squints in the light shone on his face as do most of the miners, said he is thankful "for all your efforts out there."

One man shown says he is doing much better because of the food and water the miners have received.

Throughout the interviews, as the men start to choke up when speaking about their families, a voice behind the camera urges them on. "Let's go, let's go! You can do it!" the unidentified man said.

Mayor in violent Mexican border state killed

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen killed the mayor of a town in the drug-plagued Mexican border state of Tamaulipas on Sunday in a region where suspected cartel hitmen recently massacred 72 migrants, the government said.

Hidalgo Mayor Marco Antonio Leal Garcia was the second mayor to be assassinated in the past two weeks in the area, which has become a battleground between the Gulf cartel and the brutal Zetas gang of hitmen.

President Felipe Calderon condemned the attack on Leal

Garcia, which left the mayor's daughter wounded.

"This cowardly crime, and the reprehensible violent acts that occurred recently in this state, strengthen the commitment of the Mexican government to continue fighting the criminal gangs that seek to intimidate the families of Tamaulipas," Calderon's office said in a statement.

Leal Garcia's rural town, Hidalgo, has about 25,000 inhabitants. It lies southwest of a part of Tamaulipas where a massacre survivor said Zetas gunmen killed 72 Central and South

American migrants last week.

Hidalgo is also near the border with Nuevo Leon state, where the mayor of another town, Santiago, was found murdered on Aug. 18. Local police allied with a drug gang are suspected in that killing.

There were no immediate details on the possible motive in Leal Garcia's slaying, but Calderon's reference to "criminal gangs" and the nature of the slaying suggest drug cartel involvement. Local media reported Leal Garcia was killed as he left his ranch Sunday.

Abbas: No peace talks with settlement building



AP Israeli children walk past Ariel's new Theater in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Ariel, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010.

RAMALLAH, West Bank

(AP)—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas warned Sunday that he will not back down from his threat to pull out of new peace talks with Israel if it resumes construction in West Bank settlements.

The negotiations are set to resume this week with a gala summit meeting in Washington after months of American mediation efforts.

Israelis themselves are divided over the settlements, including how many should be dismantled, if any, to enable the creation of a Palestinian state. Reflecting that divide, leading Israeli theater actors and playwrights pledged Sunday not to perform in West Bank settlements, an announcement that drew sharp criticism from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Under intense American pressure, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a 10-month partial freeze in settlement construction to boost prospects for talks, but the negotiations are resuming just three weeks before the freeze expires. Netanyahu has not pledged to renew it, facing stiff opposition from hard-line coalition partners in his government.

The Palestinians never endorsed the freeze, because it did not halt all construction in the West Bank and did not apply to east Jerusalem, the section claimed by the Palestinians for a future capital.

Speaking in a televised address recorded earlier Sunday in Jordan, Abbas said, "the Israeli government holds full responsibility for the failure and the collapse of these negotiations if it continues settlement expansion in all the occupied Palestinian territories," a clear reference to east Jerusalem.

Abbas is facing internal opposition from Palestinian hard-liners, especially Hamas, for agreeing to return to the negotiating table. The Islamic Hamas, which rules Gaza and has a significant presence in the West Bank, rejects any contact with Israel. Other Palestinians

criticize Abbas for not securing Israeli concessions in advance of the talks.

Netanyahu also must deal with opposition.

Hawkish members of his coalition government oppose any concessions to the Palestinians, and one unleashed a harsh tirade against the Palestinians Sunday.

The spiritual leader of one of the hard-line parties in Netanyahu's coalition caused a stir by saying in his weekly Sabbath sermon that the Palestinians and Abbas should "perish from the world." Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, a founder of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, also described Palestinians as "evil, bitter enemies of Israel."

The 89-year-old former chief rabbi of Israel is a respected religious scholar among Jews of Middle Eastern descent, but is also known for vitriolic comments about Arabs, secular Jews, liberals, women and gays. Shas runs private schools that educate tens of thousands of Israeli children.

The Abbas government responded angrily, demanding in a statement that the Israeli government put a stop to what it described as a "culture of hatred in Israel toward Palestinians."

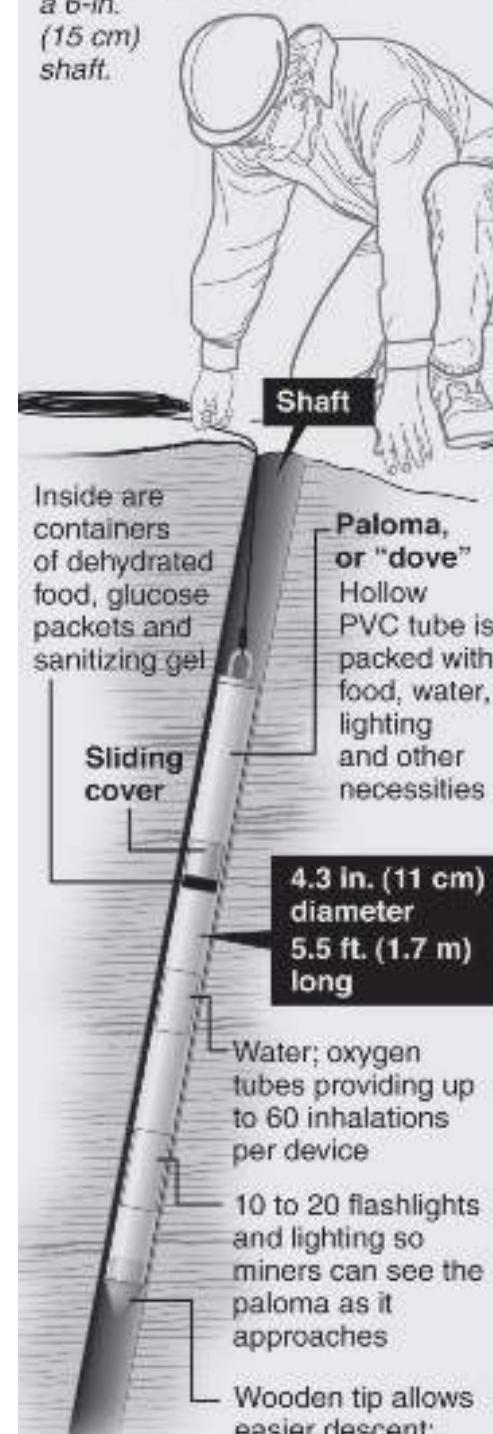
The Israeli premier's office rejected Yosef's remarks, saying they "do not reflect the attitude of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor the position of the Israeli government." The office said in a statement that Netanyahu is going to the talks with a goal of "reaching an agreement with the Palestinians that will put an end to the conflict."

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley also condemned the rabbi's comments, saying in a statement that they are "not only deeply offensive, but incitement such as this hurts the cause of peace."

Reflecting Israeli divisions over the settlements, more than 60 Israeli actors and playwrights signed a letter refusing to perform in the West Bank. They wrote that appearing in a settlement clashes with their political views.

Miners' dove

Life-sustaining necessities for 33 miners trapped more than 2,000 ft. (609 m) underground arrive in the form of a PVC "dove" lowered from the surface through a 6-in. (15 cm) shaft.



Source: AP: La Tercera
Graphic: Lee Hulteng

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Focus

K HAN BANI SAAD, Iraq (AP)—A \$40 million prison sits in the desert north of Baghdad, empty. A \$165 million children's hospital goes unused in the south. A \$100 million wastewater treatment system in Fallujah has cost three times more than projected, yet sewage still runs through the streets.

As the U.S. draws down in Iraq, it is leaving behind hundreds of abandoned or incomplete projects. More than \$5 billion in U.S. taxpayer funds has been wasted on these projects—more than 10 percent of the \$53.7 billion the U.S. has spent on reconstruction in Iraq, according to audits from a U.S. watchdog agency.

That amount is likely an underestimate, based on an analysis of more than 300 reports by auditors with the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction. And it does not take into account security costs, which have run almost 17 percent for some projects.

There are success stories. Hundreds of police stations, border forts and government buildings have been built, Iraqi security forces have improved after years of training, and a deepwater port at the southern oil hub of Umm Qasr has been restored.

But even completed projects for the most part fell far short of original goals, according to an Associated Press review of hundreds of audits and investigations and visits to several sites. And the verdict is still out on whether the program reached its goal of generating Iraqi good will toward the United States instead of the insurgents.

Col. Jon Christensen, who took over as head of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq this summer, said it has completed more than 4,800 projects and is rushing to finish 233 more. Some 595 projects have been terminated, mostly for security reasons.

Christensen acknowledged that mistakes have been made. But he said steps have been taken to fix them, and the success of the program will depend ultimately on the Iraqis—who have complained that they were not consulted on projects to start with.

"There's only so much we could do," Christensen said. "A lot of it comes down to them taking ownership of it."

The reconstruction program in Iraq has been troubled since its birth shortly after the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. The U.S. was forced to scale back many projects even as they spiked in cost, sometimes to more than double or triple initial projections.

As part of the so-called surge strategy, the military in 2007 shifted its focus to protecting Iraqis and winning their trust. American soldiers found themselves hiring contractors to paint schools, refurbish pools and oversee neighborhood water distribution centers. The \$3.6 billion Commander's Emergency Response Program provided military units with ready cash for projects, and paid for Sunni fighters who agreed to turn against al-Qaida in Iraq for a monthly salary.

But sometimes civilian and military reconstruction efforts were poorly coordinated and overlapped.

Iraqis can see one of the most egregious examples of waste as they drive north from Baghdad to Khan Bani Saad. A prison rises from the desert, complete with more than two dozen guardtowers and surrounded by high concrete walls. But the only signs of life during a recent visit were a guard



In this Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010 photo, a man stands in a sewage-filled street in Fallujah, Iraq, 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad.

AP

AP IMPACT:

BY KIM GAMBEL

Associated Press Writer

US wasted billions in rebuilding Iraq

shack on the entry road and two farmers tending a nearby field.

In March 2004, the Corps of Engineers awarded a \$40 million contract to global construction and engineering firm Parsons Corp. to design and build a prison for 3,600 inmates, along with educational and vocational facilities. Work was set to finish in November 2005.

But violence was escalating in the area, home to a volatile mix of Sunni and Shiite extremists. The project started six months late and continued to fall behind schedule, according to a report by the inspector general.

The U.S. government pulled the plug on Parsons in June 2006, citing "continued schedule slips and ... massive cost overruns," but later awarded three more contracts to other companies. Pasadena, California-based Parsons said it did its best under difficult and violent circumstances.

Citing security concerns, the U.S. finally abandoned the project in June 2007 and handed over the unfinished facility to Iraq's Justice Ministry. The ministry refused to "complete, occupy or provide security" for it, according to the report. More than \$1.2 million in unused construction material also was abandoned due to fears of violence.

The inspector general recommended another use be found for the partially finished buildings inside the dusty compound. But three years later, piles of bricks and barbed wire lie around, and tumbleweed is growing in the caked sand.

"It will never hold a single Iraqi prisoner," said inspector general Stuart Bowen, who has overseen the reconstruction effort since it started. "\$40 million wasted in the desert."

Another problem was coordination with the Iraqis, who have been left with health facilities that would cost at least as much as the Americans spent to complete. One clinic was handed over to local authorities without a staircase, said Shaymaa Mohammed Amin, the head of the Diyala provincial reconstruction and development committee.

"We were almost forced to take them," she said during an interview at the heavily fortified local government building in the provincial capital of Baquba. "Generally speaking, they were below our expectations. Huge funds were wasted and they would not have been wasted if plans had been clear from the beginning."

As an example, she cited a date honey factory that was started despite a more pressing need for schools and vital infrastructure. She said some schools were left without paint or chalkboards, and needed renovations.

"We ended up paying twice," she said.

In some cases, Iraqi ministries have refused to take on the responsibility for U.S.-funded programs, forcing the Americans to leave abandoned buildings littering the landscape.

"Initially when we came in...we didn't collaborate as much as we should have with the correct people and figure out what their needs were," Chris-

tensen said. He stressed that Iraqis are now closely involved in all projects.

The U.S. military pinned great hopes on a \$5.7 million convention center inside the tightly secured Baghdad International Airport compound, as part of a commercial hub aimed at attracting foreign investors.

A few events were held at the sprawling complex, including a three-day energy conference that drew oil executives from as far away as Russia and Japan in 2008, which the U.S. military claimed generated \$1 million in revenues.

But the contracts awarded for the halls did not include requirements to connect them to the main power supply. The convention center, still requiring significant work, was transferred to the Iraqi government "as is" on Jan. 20, according to an audit by the inspector general's office.

The buildings have since fallen into disrepair, and dozens of boxes of fluorescent lightbulbs and other equipment disappeared from the site. Light poles outside have toppled over and the glass facade is missing from large sections of the abandoned buildings.

Waste also came from trying to run projects while literally under fire.

The Americans committed to rebuilding the former Sunni insurgent stronghold of Fallujah after it was destroyed in major offensives in 2004. The U.S. awarded an initial contract for a new wastewater treatment system to FluorAMEC of Greenville, South Carolina—just three months after four

American private security contractors were savagely attacked. The charred and mutilated remains of two of them were strung from a bridge in the city.

An audit concluded that it was unrealistic for the U.S. "to believe FluorAMEC could even begin construction, let alone complete the project, while fierce fighting occurred daily." The report also pointed out repeated redesigns of the project, and financial and contracting problems.

The Fallujah wastewater treatment system is nearly complete—four years past the deadline, at a cost of more than three times the original \$32.5 million estimate. It has been scaled back to serve just a third of the population, and Iraqi officials said it still lacks connections to houses and a pipe to join neighborhood tanks up with the treatment plant.

Desperate residents, meanwhile, have begun dumping their sewage in the tanks, causing foul odors and running the risk of seepage, according to the head of Fallujah's municipal council, Sheik Hameed Ahmed Hashim.

"It isn't appropriate for the Americans to give the city these services without completing these minor details," Hashim said. "We were able to wipe out part of the memories of the Fallujah battles through this and other projects.... If they leave the project as it is, I think their reputation will be damaged."

By contrast, the Basra children's hospital—one of the largest projects undertaken by the U.S. in Iraq—looks like a shining success story, with gardeners tending manicured lawns in preparation for its opening. But that opening has been repeatedly delayed, most recently for a lack of electricity.

The construction of a "state of the art" pediatric specialist hospital with a cancer unit was projected to be completed by December 2005 for about \$50 million. By last year, the cost had soared above \$165 million, including more than \$100 million in U.S. funds, and the equipment was dated, according to an auditors' report.

Investigators blamed the delays on unrealistic timeframes, poor soil conditions, multiple partners and funding sources and security problems at the site, including the murder of 24 workers. Bechtel, the project contractor, was removed because of monthslong delays blamed on poor sub-contractor performance and limited oversight, the special inspector general's office said. A Bechtel spokeswoman, Michelle Allen, said the company had recommended in 2006 that work on the hospital be put on hold because of the "intolerable security situation."

In an acknowledgment that they weren't getting exactly what they hoped for, Iraqi officials insisted the label "state of the art" be removed from a memorandum of understanding giving them the facility. It was described as a "modern pediatric hospital."

The hospital's director, Kadhim Fahad, said construction has been completed and the electricity issue resolved. "The opening will take place soon, God willing," he said.

Residents are pleased with the outcome. One, Ghassan Kadhim, said: "It is the duty of the Americans to do such projects because they were the ones who inflicted harm on people."

Associated Press Writer Sameer N. Yacoub contributed to this report.

Overdrive



Honda is playing with a new concept with its 2011 CR-Z, a "responsibly indulgent" sport hybrid coupe that's low-cost (\$19,200), fun to drive and environmentally conscious. The latest gas-electric powertrain from Honda is slightly larger than the Insight. Its 1.5-liter i-VTEC engine works in conjunction with a 10-kilowatt electric motor and gets...

Honda CR-Z aims to have fuel efficiency and enjoy it, too

By SUSAN CARPENTER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cars typically force drivers to make a choice: sporty but piggish on fuel or efficient and underwhelming.

With its 2011 CR-Z, Honda Motor Co. is playing with a new concept. It's called responsible indulgence, and Honda's debuting the idea with a two-seat "sporty hybrid coupe" that's got some spunk but doesn't force drivers to check their environmental consciences at the door. Starting at \$19,200, the CR-Z offers conservationist virtues and Kardashian curves on a Kmart budget.

The latest gas-electric powertrain from Honda is slightly larger than the

one used in its slow-selling Insight hybrid. The CR-Z has 0.2 liters of additional displacement and twice as many valves on its inline four cylinders. As a result, its 1.5-liter i-VTEC engine and 10-kilowatt brushless electric motor are slightly less fuel efficient, rating 39 miles per gallon on the highway for the automatic and 37 mpg for the one I tested—a six-speed manual transmission, a first for a hybrid car.

Fuel economy varies, of course, depending on how a car is driven. In that arena the CR-Z provides options that go beyond the usual accelerator and brake-pedal inputs. The 3-mode drive system switches the balance of performance and fuel economy, letting driv-

ers choose between the bridled torque of "econ," just-the-facts-ma'am "normal" and "sport," which is quite frisky for such a small engine.

Taking it on serpentine stretches of the historic Arroyo Seco Parkway (a.k.a. the 110 Freeway near Pasadena), I was impressed with the CR-Z's handling in sport mode, and how well this little hybrid hugged the road.

The CR-Z never lets the driver forget its environmental mission.

Each drive mode rings the tachometer in a different hue of neon light, kind of like a mood ring: green for economy, blue for normal and red for sport. When an up- or down-shift would help the car achieve better fuel economy, a light on

the 3-D dash display in the manual version let me know.

And if I didn't get the message while I was flooring it, the car's Eco Assist feature pointed it out in no uncertain terms. It actually assigned me an "eco" score that was presented with a botanical-themed graphic, rather than numbers. The more efficient my driving, the more "leaves" that appeared on the dashboard.

How'd I do? Uh, time to raise my contribution to Carbonfund.org.

The CR-Z is primarily designed to appeal to the young and single—or anyone, really, who wants to roll lean and green. Part of what enabled Honda to keep the cost under \$20,000 is the car's Integrated Motor Assist, a system that mounts the ultra-thin electric motor between the transmission and gasoline engine and metes the flow of electricity to and from the motor.

Design-wise, the CR-Z is quite the looker. Its teardrop body shape makes it clear the car is a hybrid, but it has a far more aggressive stance than the upstanding-citizen look of other gas-electrics on the market. Although the CR-Z looks similar to the Insight and other products in the Honda portfolio, it's related in the same way Khloe, Kim and Kourtney Kardashian look like sisters—only the CR-Z has the pedigree and the personality and the curvaceous, come-hither bod all rolled in to one.

Like the sport cars that provided its inspiration, the bonnet and, more importantly, the engine and motor beneath it are both situated low for a more sporty performance. The double spoiler is in the front to provide better aerodynamics. Overall, the CR-Z's profile is lean and low-slung, and its seat will make drivers feel like trolleys.

The driver's seat can be moved upward. It just has to be pumped by hand, and pumping it too much nearly cranked my cranium into the roof. Luckily, we're not living in the 1980s, because big hair would be squished.

There's no way to seat anyone in the back. Although the Japanese and European versions of the CR-Z have a rear seat, the American CR-Z is a two-seat coupe. At least it has a rear storage area. With the push of a button, the rear cargo "console," as Honda calls it, can be flattened, providing 25.1 cubic feet of space for the loads of dirty laundry single guys tend to haul home to their mothers, or a

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: \$19,200

Price as tested: \$22,560

Powertrain: Inline four-cylinder, four valves per cylinder, SOHC, i-VTEC with Integrated Motor Assist, 10 kilowatt DC brushless motor, 100.8-volt nickel-metal-hydride battery pack, 3-mode drive system, six-speed manual transmission

Horsepower: 122 @ 6,000 rpm

Torque: 128 at 1,000 to 1,750 rpm

Curb weight: 2,637 lbs.

Fuel economy: 31 city/37 highway
0 to 60: 8.8 seconds*

Final thoughts: conservationist virtues and Kardashian curves on a Kmart budget

*According to Edmunds.com; Honda does not publish this figure

couple of pony kegs of beer, which will be unloaded at their apartment.

Although it has two seats, the CR-Z seems designed for solo driving. That's evident from the curvature of the car's controls, which are angled in toward the driver, almost cup-like. The shape not only beckoned me to become one with the CR-Z, but improved the ergonomics, making it easy to operate the 360-watt stereo and satellite-linked, voice-activated navigation system of the EX version I tested.

For such a low price, I was relieved Honda didn't cheap out the interior. The seats aren't leather, but the textiles and other touch points were soft, the color scheme a pleasing metallic and black.

My EX came with a manual transmission, but the automatic would have been my preference because manuals are a pain in L.A. traffic and the automatic's outfitted with paddle shifters. More fun. Less work.

Both versions offer far less fuel economy than the Toyota Prius, which has the best of any car currently on the market—51 mpg city and 48 highway. That lands the CR-Z in the mpg and price realm of sporty mini- and sub-compacts like the BMW Mini and Honda Fit, market segments that are also gaining momentum and are likely to be competition for the CR-Z.

Overall, I wish the CR-Z felt a bit torquier and sportier, and that the fuel economy was more Prius-like, but the design and concept are both spectacular. I look forward to the CR-Z, generation two.

Does high-tech synthetic oil still need to be changed?

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I just purchased a 2003 Buick Park Avenue with 203,000 miles. It's in good shape, and I foresee driving it for the next decade with good maintenance.

I have been told that I can change to a synthetic oil, and using special filters I would never have to change the oil again, unless it became contaminated and the filter didn't seem to be taking care of it. I was told this is because synthetic oil will never break down at normal or even high operating temperatures. So I could just change the filter every 3,000 miles or three months and replace the oil lost in the filter.

My mechanic says that even with synthetic oil, I should change it every 5,000 to 6,000 miles. He says he's

seen cars where the owners changed only the filter, and inevitably the engines are coated with sludge inside.

What do you recommend I do?

ANSWER: Listen to your mechanic. Change the engine oil and filter—regardless of the type of oil you choose to use—every 4,000 to 5,000 miles. With your estimated 7,000 to 10,000 miles per year, that would be twice a year at most. Even at \$50 per synthetic oil change, why would you not change oil and filter?

Every automaker's recommended maintenance program includes regular oil and filter changes. Every automotive warranty requires following the carmaker's maintenance schedule. And the bottom line, of course, is that it's your name on the title and registration.

Yes, synthetic oils are better at maintaining viscosity than petroleum oils,

but they contain the same additives to protect against corrosion, foaming, wear, etc., including additives that work as dispersants to keep contaminants suspended in the oil. Additives are consumable, meaning they're used up over the service life of the lubricant. Motor vehicle engines use full-flow oil filters that filter every drop of oil before it is pumped into the engine. These filters trap particles down to 10 to 15 microns. Any finer filtration could restrict oil flow in cold conditions. That's why you need to change the oil and filter.

No matter the type of lubricant—petroleum or synthetic—soluble contaminants like combustion acids, water and fuel can remain in the oil until it is changed. A bypass filtration system that pumps some of the oil through a much finer filter might justify longer intervals but wouldn't

eliminate the need to change oil.

Modern automotive engines and lubricants are far better than even those of 10 years to 20 years ago. But they still require regular maintenance—which is your responsibility. You make the decision.

■ ■ ■

Q: I own a 2003 four-cylinder Camry with 110,000 miles. After the car is parked overnight and then started, smoke comes out of the tailpipe for about two seconds. The car does not burn oil between oil changes, nor does it emit smoke at any other time. What could cause this smoke?

A: What color is the smoke? White smoke could indicate coolant leaking into the cylinders and vaporizing with the heat of combustion as the engine starts. A cooling system pressure test and/or testing for exhaust hydrocar-

bons in the coolant might pinpoint a leaking cylinder head or intake manifold gasket. White smoke can also be normal moisture accumulation in the exhaust system vaporizing at start-up.

If the smoke is blue, it's a tiny amount of oil that has drained past the valve seals into the combustion chamber overnight and burned when the engine is started. At 110,000 miles, this would not be abnormal and doesn't indicate a problem that needs repair.

Paul Brand, author of *How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Life & Style

Giovanni's turns 15 with fanfare

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Giovanni's was all jazzed up with a good deal of Broadway fanfare Friday night as it marked 15 years of serving the best of Italian cuisine on Saipan.

The premier Italian restaurant on island celebrated the milestone with its team of dedicated staff and a number of Giovanni's loyal patrons.

Guests partied the night away

to the upbeat sound of in-house band Star Society and Mario and Loreta.

Patrons were also treated to Italian appetizers, including Giovanni's famed Angus beef station, and the much awaited Tiramisu station.

Hyatt's Food & Beverage director Ranjeet Rajebhosale said the turnout was better than they've expected as their regular customers definitely had a

blast with good food, good music, and good company.

Heaps of prizes were also given out to guests to thank them for their continued support of Giovanni's.

"I just want to thank people for patronizing Hyatt and Giovanni's," said Rajebhosale, who also recognized the restaurant's hardworking team whom he described as Giovanni's "biggest asset."



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Hyatt's Food and Beverage director Ranjeet Rajebhosale enjoys the night with some of Giovanni's loyal patrons.



Dr. Gene Eagle-Oden and Anna Glushko enjoy Giovanni's celebration with friends.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Zoning board chairman Herminia Fusco, DEQ's Fran Castro, NMC's Frankie Elliptico and friends join in Giovanni's celebration.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



The dedicated team of Giovanni's sing happy birthday as they celebrate 15 years of being the premier Italian restaurant on island.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Dr. Dan Lamar and Dr. Mark Robertson join friends in celebrating Giovanni's 15th anniversary.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CNMI national tennis player Lydia Tan bonds with a group of friends during Giovanni's birthday bash.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Appreciation Message

We, the family of the late
†Rita Sablan Palacios

Wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives, friends and neighbors for your kind expression of love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved into the caring hands of our Creator.

We extend our special thanks to Fr. Celso, who assisted in the Eucharistic Celebration. We are deeply grateful to our techa,

Marcy Cepeda, for the extra sacrifice she did for us in leading our family rosary.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to all the doctors, nurses, Saipan Bowling Center Bowlers and to all who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence at the Eucharistic Celebration and Interment. For the many acts of kindness and generosity which gave us the strength and courage to endure our loss- We thank you.

DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MAASE.
May God continue to bless us all.

GINEN I FAMAGUON YAN I FAMILIA



'Mad Men,' 'Modern Family' win top Emmys



AP
Producer Tom Hanks poses in the press room with the award for outstanding miniseries for "The Pacific" during the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER



AP
Julia Ormond accepts the award for outstanding supporting actress in a miniseries or movie for "Temple Grandin" during the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.



AP
Actress Edie Falco poses in the press room with the award for outstanding lead actress in a comedy series for her work on "Nurse Jackie" during the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.



AP
Actor Jim Parsons poses in the press room with the award for outstanding lead actor in a comedy series for his work on "The Big Bang Theory" during the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.



AP
Actress Jane Lynch poses in the press room with the award for outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series for her work on "Glee" during the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.



AP
Kyra Sedgwick arrives at the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.

and earned Emmys for its star, Claire Danes, and supporting acting trophies for Julia Ormond and David Strathairn. The film's director, Mick Jackson, also was honored.

Al Pacino was honored as best lead actor in a miniseries or movie for "You Don't Know Jack," about euthanasia advocate Dr. Jack Kevorkian, who was in the audience and stood, smiling, at Pacino's request.

The controversial physician received scattered applause.

Host Jimmy Fallon opened the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards on a musical note, performing a song-and-dance number with the cast of "Glee" and a wildly mismatched group of celebrities including Betty White, Jon Hamm, Kate Gosselin and Randy Jackson.

Much of the group ended up on the Nokia Theatre stage to kick off the awards with a high-energy version of "Born to Run," with Fallon on guitar.

"Tonight we're going to celebrate your work," Fallon told the audience. "So let's have some fun tonight."

Last year's host, Neil Patrick Harris, was a presenter Sunday and took the time to rib Fallon.

"I want to thank the (TV) academy for allowing a gay man to host the Emmys two years in a row. Congratulations, Jimmy, you're doing a good job," Harris said, smiling.

The public had a hand in writing some of Fallon's material through Twitter for the ceremony, which aired live on the West Coast for the first time in three decades.

HBO came into the ceremony as the kingpin after claiming 17 awards at the Aug. 21 creative arts Emmys, followed by ABC with 15 and Fox with nine. CBS, NBC and PBS each claimed seven.

On Sunday, HBO again was on top with eight trophies. AMC received four, ABC and CBS had three and Fox and Showtime had two. NBC, Comedy Central, Bravo and TNT earned one award each.

"The Pacific," the World War II drama produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, received the best miniseries award in a category it shared with one other nominee, "Return to Cranford." "The Pacific" was the top nominee with 24 bids and captured a leading seven creative arts awards, which recognize technical and other achievements.

romp "Modern Family" were the top honorees at Sunday's Emmy Awards as American life past and present proved a winning formula.

"To our fans, we are so grate-

ful, we are so thrilled that families are sitting down together to watch a television show, and we're so happy that you have let us into your families," said Steven Levitan, "Modern Family" executive producer.

The best comedy series award

was the first for the freshman sitcom, which also captured an acting award for Eric Stonestreet and a best writing trophy.

"Mad Men" earned its third consecutive best drama series trophy. Series creator Matthew Weiner seemed to take the night in stride.

"I knew one day I would run somewhere and win a trophy," Weiner joked earlier in the ceremony when he dashed to the stage to claim the Emmy for best drama series writing with Erin Levy.

"Glee," the musical-comedy that started the night as the most-nominated series, earned an acting trophy for Jane Lynch and a directing award for creator Ryan Murphy.

Bryan Cranston's portrayal of a meth dealer in "Breaking Bad" and Kyra Sedgwick's role as a brassy deputy police chief in "The Closer" earned the pair top drama series acting awards.

Cranston's honor was his third trophy for playing a high school chemistry teacher gone wrong, while his co-star, Aaron Paul, earned his first award as best supporting actor for playing his partner-in-crime.

"During the time it took me to walk up here, I venture there were 200 text messages to the other nominees saying, 'You were robbed.' I cannot argue with that," Cranston said.

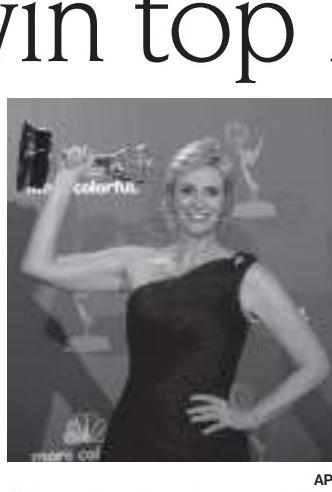
Archie Panjabi of "The Good Wife" was honored as best supporting actress in a drama for her part as a law-firm's in-house private investigator, as Emmy voters spread the riches widely among veterans and fresh faces.

Edie Falco of "Nurse Jackie" and Jim Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory" were honored for their comedy series lead roles.

Falco's trophy for playing a tough but troubled nurse came after her hallmark turn as a mob boss' wife in "The Sopranos," for which she won three best drama actress Emmys.

"Oh, this is the most ridiculous thing that has ever, ever happened in the history of this lovely awards show. I'm not funny!" Falco said.

Parsons won for his portrayal of a scientist as nerdy as he is brilliant. He ended fellow nominee Alec Baldwin's two-year winning streak for "30 Rock" and beat out other heavyweights including



AP
Actor Jim Parsons poses in the press room with the award for outstanding lead actor in a comedy series for his work on "The Big Bang Theory" during the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.



AP
Actress Jane Lynch poses in the press room with the award for outstanding supporting actress in a comedy series for her work on "Glee" during the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.

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The Last Exorcism

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Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon through Thurs :00 7:00

Patrick Fabian, Ashley Bell

Horror • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Disillusioned charlatan Reverend Cotton Marcus (Patrick Fabian) comes face to face with pure evil after recruiting a documentary film crew to capture the final exorcism of his career. For years Reverend Marcus has taken advantage of the faithful and desperate. Now it's time for him to finally come clean. Just as Reverend Marcus prepares to shoot the film that will set the record straight, he receives an urgent letter from a desperate farmer. The devil has taken possession of his beloved daughter Nell (Ashley Bell), and Reverend Marcus is their last hope for salvation.



Piranha

Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

Elisabeth Shue, Adam Scott

Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Haute Tension and Hills Have Eyes director Alexandre Aja pays homage to the films that made him fall in love with the horror genre by helming this comedic remake of director Joe Dante's 1978 Jaws parody.



Vampires Suck

Friday 4:15 7:15 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Matt Lanter, Chris Riddi

Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Vampires Suck is a comedy about contemporary teen angst and romance movies. Becca, an anxious, non-vampire teen, is torn between two boys. Before she can choose, Becca must get around her controlling father, who embarrasses Becca by treating her like a child. Meanwhile, Becca's friends content with their own romantic issues — all of which collide at the prom.



The Expendables

Friday 4:10 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:20

Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham

War • Rated R

Scott Pilgrim Versus The World

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

Michael Cera, Chris Evans

Adventure • Rated PG 13



Salt

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber

Thriller • Rated PG 13

The Other Guys

Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:10

Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell

Comedy • Rated PG 13

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'Exorcism' has slim box-office lead over 'Takers'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The fright flick "The Last Exorcism" and the heist thriller "Takers" were in a photo finish for the top spot at the weekend box office, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Lionsgate's "The Last Exorcism" had a thin lead with a \$21.3 million debut, closely followed by Sony's "Takers" with a \$21 million opening. They were close enough that rankings could change after final numbers are released Monday.

After two weekends in the No. 1 spot, Lionsgate's action romp "The Expendables" slipped to third place with \$9.5 million,



- 1. "The Last Exorcism," \$21.3 million.
- 2. "Takers," \$21 million.
- 3. "The Expendables," \$9.5 million.
- 4. "Eat Pray Love," \$7 million.
- 5. "The Other Guys," \$6.6 million.
- 6. "Vampires Suck," \$5.3 million.
- 7. "Inception," \$5.1 million.
- 8. "Nanny McPhee Returns," \$4.74 million
- 9. "The Switch," \$4.7 million.
- 10. "Piranha 3D," \$4.3 million.

raising its total to \$82 million. Playing in narrower release, a 3-D special edition of "Avatar" pulled in \$4 million, lifting the sci-fi sensation's domestic total to \$753.8 million. The new version of the 20th Century Fox blockbuster adds nine minutes of footage.

Both "The Last Exorcism" and "Takers" debuted well above studio expectations, though the openings were modest compared with most big summer debuts.

Overall revenues came in at \$115 million, down 8 percent

In this publicity image released by Lionsgate, clockwise from left, Patrick Fabian, Louis Herthum, Caleb Landry Jones and Ashley Bell are shown in a scene from, "The Last Exorcism."

compared with the same weekend last year, when the horror tale "The Final Destination"

opened on top with \$27.4 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"We've had two weeks of films being all stacked up very closely to one another, and that's a really tight margin between these two," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "But it's sort of a battle in a marketplace that really isn't setting the world on fire."

With summer blockbuster season generally over, late August often is a solid time to release scary movies such as "The

Final Destination" and "Halloween II," which opened over the same weekend last year.

"You don't see many low-budget genre films released in June or July or even early August," said David Spitz, head of distribution for Lionsgate. "You don't want to put 'The Last Exorcism' up against 'Inception' or these big blockbuster films."

"The Last Exorcism," about an exorcist trying to cast out a demon from a teenager, cost just \$2 million to produce, and Lionsgate bought domestic distribution rights for less than \$1 million.

"Takers," which cost a modest \$32 million to make, features Matt Dillon, Hayden Christensen, Paul Walker and Idris Elba

in a thriller about bank robbers pursued by a tough cop.

Rory Bruer, Sony head of distribution, said he expected "Takers" to remain in second place, slightly behind "The Last Exorcism," once final figures are released Monday. Yet the two movies were pacing Hollywood to a strong finish to the summer season, he said.

"I do think both pictures were pretty terrific for ending summer with," Bruer said. "To have two pictures at \$20-plus million at the end of August is a good thing."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Sandra Bullock marks Katrina anniversary at clinic

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Five years after Hurricane Katrina, Oscar-winning actress Sandra Bullock returned Sunday to the New Orleans high school she helped rebuild for the opening of an on-campus health clinic.

Bullock, whose adopted son was born in New Orleans, joined a host of educators, school supporters and politicians, including U.S. Sens. Mary Landrieu and David Vitter and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, for the clinic's ribbon-cutting ceremony, which coincided with the storm's anniversary.

"We're here to celebrate an an-



AP
Sandra Bullock arrives at Warren Easton Charter High School in New Orleans Sunday Aug. 29, 2010, on the five year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina to cut the ribbon on an on campus health clinic for the school.

"She's helped shine a light on

niversary and though that might be hard for some, I choose to emphasize the word 'celebrate.' Sometimes tragedies bring out the very best in people and it's one of the reasons why we stand in this school of excellence today," Bullock told about 100 people gathered in the auditorium of Warren Easton Charter High School, which was rebuilt after Katrina swamped the campus.

In addition to a contribution from Bullock, the \$700,000 medical and dental clinic received grants from The Kellogg Foundation and The San Francisco 49ers Foundation. It's set to open in the fall and will provide services ranging from flu shots to emergency care.

Bullock previously donated money to Easton, the city's oldest public high school, for renovations, scholarships and supplies including new band uniforms.

Ferrand said the clinic is badly needed in an area that's been underserved since Katrina.

Cassandra Ferrand, the school's nurse who helped spearhead the clinic project, said Tulane Medical Center will provide physicians for the clinic, which will also have nurse practitioners and social workers.

Past narrators have included Alec Baldwin, Morgan Freeman, Gene Hackman, Ed Harris, Martin Sheen, Bruce Willis and James Gandolfini. "Mad Men" star Jon Hamm narrated last year's film on the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Justin Bieber postpones concert at NY State Fair

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Justin Bieber fans looking forward to his performance at the New York State Fair are going to have to wait a bit longer.

Fair officials said Bieber's concert planned for Sunday in Syracuse has been postponed until Wednesday because of illness.

Bieber performed Saturday night in Newark, N.J.

Brad Pitt narrates Super Bowl film

NEW YORK (AP)—Brad Pitt is the NFL's voice for its upcoming documentary on the New Orleans' Saints Super Bowl victory.

Pitt narrates NFL Films' documentary, "America's Game: 2009 New Orleans Saints," about the team's win over the Indianapolis Colts last Febru-

ary. The film debuts on the NFL Network at 9 p.m. EDT on Sept. 8, the night before the Saints begin their defense of the Super Bowl title.

The NFL traditionally seeks out a celebrity narrator for its annual Super Bowl documentary. Pitt was chosen because of his humanitarian work in New Or-

Funerals celebrating life bring comfort to the living

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Your advice to "Pam in Springfield, Ohio" (July 14), whose husband didn't want to go to his mother's funeral, was right on.

A memorial service can be a very different experience than a funeral with the casket present. One of the classiest ones I ever attended was at an art museum, with a jazz trio and a display of the deceased's artwork all around. After listening to some wonderfully funny stories about the nifty lady we were there to honor, there was wine and finger food and cordial sharing of fond memories.

My advice to any family is to start talking about funerals now, before the big event, sharing what you like and what you don't about funerals. There is never only one way to do it.

LISA CARLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FUNERAL ETHICS ORGANIZATION

DEAR LISA: Agreed! It's always nice to receive a letter from you. You have long been a valued resource to me and my readers. Read on:



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I work in a funeral home and would suggest a couple of options to Pam regarding her husband. Some funeral homes have more than one viewing room. They could display his mother in one and have the receiving line in another. That way, he wouldn't have to see his mother in a casket. The service could include a closed casket—or none at all.

Another choice would be cremation with a memorial service afterward. Both arrangements would allow the husband the chance for a final goodbye without seeing Mom in the casket. Whatever he decides, the wife should accept his final decision.

LAURIE IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY: Sadly, both of my parents passed away within two years of each other. Instead of a funeral we held a Celebration of Life Memorial Service. (They both wanted to be cremated, so we did not have to deal with a coffin.) Abby, the celebration was beautiful for both. We created slide shows and poster boards of their lives, told funny stories about them, and had people get up randomly if they had their own stories to share. Yes, it was sad because we miss our parents dearly ... but it has also been much easier dealing with our loss when remembering their service as a celebration of their lives.

MISSING MOM AND DAD, EUGENE, ORE.

DEAR ABBY: I have made it clear to all of my family members that I will not attend their funerals if they go before I do. I stopped attending funerals the minute I was allowed to decide for myself around the age of 16 (I am now 40). Whenever I go to a funeral, the prevailing memory for me is the one of the person lying in the coffin. I no longer remember him or her as alive.

For the most part, my family has been very understanding and allowed me to grieve in my own way.

Pam should let her husband keep his memories of his mother in life and support him. Rather than worrying about him being there for his siblings, she needs to be concerned about being there for him.

ROSEMARIE IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR ABBY: A funeral is for the living—not the deceased. I lost my husband after a long illness a few years ago. His last wishes were to have no funeral so our children and I would not have to go through that. Instead, we celebrated his life with family and close friends—including pictures and stories that we turned into a memorial biography of his life. As much as we miss him, this has been a much better means of coping for our family.

CHERYL IN LAS CRUCES, N.M.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Find today's solution in this section

Kuchar wins Barclays on first playoff hole



PARAMUS, N.J. (AP)—Matt Kuchar stopped practicing for a playoff and walked over to the 18th green

to watch with thousands of other spectators, planning to congratulate Martin Laird on the victory. A short time later, the celebration was for Kuchar.

His fortunes took quite a turn Sunday at The Barclays. So did his golf ball.

Kuchar gave the FedEx Cup playoffs a memorable start with a 7-iron out of the rough that sent his ball toward the back of the green, where it caught enough of the slope to turn sharply to the left and roll to within 30 inches of the hole for a birdie.

"The shot came out beautifully," he said. "I ran it up to that back right bank and saw the crowd just all of a sudden

... like a wave of people standing and cheering. I knew it was getting good. That was an exciting way to cap off this tournament."

Five shots behind to start the final round, Kuchar closed with a 5-under 66 and got into a playoff when Laird three-putted for bogey from just inside 25 feet on the final hole.

The timing could not have been better for Kuchar.

He had nine top 10s this year to earn a spot on his first Ryder Cup team, but didn't have a trophy to show for his solid play. The victory put him atop the FedEx Cup standings, giving him a good shot at the \$10 million prize. And the third victory of his career likely will move him to a career-best No. 10 in the world ranking.

Without a victory, Kuchar still would have been happy with his season.

"To win," he said, "it's an incredible year. There's nothing like the feeling of winning a PGA Tour golf tournament.

You feel like you're the best player in the world for this week. It's just an amazing feeling to think there's 125 of the best players in the world this week, and I came out first."

Tiger Woods continues to make progress, which in this case means he gets to keep going.

Woods, who started these playoffs at No. 112 in the standings, closed with a 4-under 67 to easily make the top 100 who advance to the second round next week at the Deutsche Bank Championship. Woods tied for 12th, his best finish since June, and moved up to No. 65.

Laird, who recovered from a shaky start, looked just as shaky at the end, especially with his putter.

He was tied with Kuchar when he had a 20-foot eagle putt on the par-5 17th, only to roll it nearly 8 feet beyond the hole. He made that birdie putt to take the lead.

"I knew I had a chance of Martin only making par on 17. I thought that was probably my best chance," Kuchar said. "And once he hit that great shot just to the back fringe on 18, I was pretty much shutting down my practice session. I went over and just was a spectator thinking that he's got this wrapped up."

Instead, Laird repeated his mistake. Only this time, his comeback putt for par never had a chance. Neither did Laird in the playoff after Kuchar's shot stopped so close to the cup. Laird hit out of the rough to about 50 feet and made par.

"Obviously, not the finish I was looking for," said Laird, who shot a 71. "But I'm very proud of the way I played today. I was kind of battling all day, and probably holed two or three of the biggest putts I've ever holed just to be where I was."

The only consolation for Laird was being safe through next month in the



AP Matt Kuchar holds The Barclays golf tournament trophy with his sons Cameron Kucher, right, and Carson Kucher on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Paramus, N.J., after beating Martin Laird of Scotland on the first playoff hole.

playoffs. He was at No. 95, hopeful of advancing to the second round, and his runner-up finish puts him at No. 3 and virtually guarantees he'll be among the top 30 at the Tour Championship who compete for the \$10 million prize that goes with the FedEx Cup.

Kuchar, who earned \$1.35 million and leads the PGA Tour money list for the first time in his career, and Laird finished at 12-under 272.

Steve Stricker closed with a 66 to tie for third with Kevin Streelman, whose parents grew up in this neighborhood and whose grandparents are buried in a cemetery next to the seventh hole. Two years ago at Ridgewood, Streelman narrowly missed a playoff. He also was on the bubble, starting at No. 102, and moved up to No. 18.

Rory Sabbatini had the low round of the day at 64 and tied for fifth.

The other big winner Sunday was Andres Romero of Argentina. He made back-to-back double bogeys to fall well outside the top 100, then made a stunning charge with four birdies over his last five holes. Romero holed a 40-foot putt on his final hole to finish at No. 100 in the standings and advance to Boston.

"After the double bogeys, I figured it was lost," Romero said. "I knew I had to make birdies to have a chance."

Woods thought he had a chance, despite starting the final round nine shots behind. Practicing a drill on the putting green to keep his eyes over the ball, he took that to the course and played another solid round. It wasn't nearly enough—he finished five shots behind—but he was encouraged by his play heading into next week at the TPC Boston.

"I haven't won all year," Woods said. "But this is a week that I was very close. I felt that if I would have putted better for all four days, I would have been right there. Looking forward to next week."



Spain's Ricky Rubio, right, drives to the basket as he is guarded by New Zealand's Jeremy Kent during their World Basketball Championship preliminary round match in Izmir, Turkey, Sunday Aug. 29, 2010.

United States and Argentina win at Worlds



KAYSERI, Turkey (AP)—Marc Gasol dunked, Rudy Fernandez hit 3-pointers and Ricky Rubio dished out assists to all of them as defending champion Spain found its form to rout New Zealand 101-84 on Sunday at the basketball world championship.

A day after losing 72-66 to France in Group D, Spain was all over New Zealand.

Spain, the European champion and Olympic silver medalist, made 21 of 25 free throws, 10 of 20 3-pointers and shot 65 percent from the field. Rubio has 11 assists and five Spanish players scored in double digits, led by Gasol with 22. Fernandez had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

France went 2-0 by defeating Lebanon 85-59. Mickael Gelabale scored 18 points and Alain Koffi added 17 for France. Jackson Vroman led Lebanon (1-1) with 19 points.

The game was delayed for over 15 minutes with 5:07 left in the second quarter after France's Nicolas Batum dunked and twisted the rim. Volunteers and officials scrambled to put a new rim on the basket and reattach a net.

Also in Group D in Izmir, Linas Kleiza had 18 points and 10 rebounds for Lithuania (2-0), which rallied from a 17-point deficit in the second half to beat Canada 70-68. Jermaine Anderson missed a last-second 3-pointer for Canada (0-2).

In Group A in Kayseri, No. 1-ranked

Argentina escaped with another close victory when Pablo Prigioni hit a 3-pointer with 33 seconds left and Luis Scola converted two late free throws for a 74-72 victory over Australia.

Adam Gibson missed a last-second 3-point attempt for Australia (1-1). Scola finished with 31 points for Argentina (2-0).

"They made some monster 3s," Australia coach Brett Brown said.

But Argentina coach Gigi Hernandez wasn't happy with his team's shooting. "Not when you shoot 39 percent from the field," he said.

Joe Ingles scored 22 points for Australia and Patty Mills added 21, while Matt Nielsen had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

The game between Germany and Serbia produced the most drama and went to two overtimes before Germany clinched an 82-81 win.

Jan-Hendrik Jagla, the former Penn State star, hit a desperation 3-pointer to beat the shot clock with 1:03 left in the second overtime and Germany held on.

After four free throws pulled Serbia within 82-81, Milenko Tepic of Serbia missed a layup with 3 seconds left.

Jagla finished with 22 points and nine rebounds for Germany (1-1), which lost 78-74 to Argentina in its opening game.

"The clock was winding down and I just had to get rid of the ball and throw it in the right direction," Jagla said of his shot. "I was

just waiting to see what happens. Normally, it wouldn't go in but tonight I was lucky."

Kosta Perovic had 20 points for Serbia (1-1), which played again without two of its top players who were suspended for their part in a brawl in an exhibition game against Greece.

Miguel Lutonda had 16 points and Angola (1-1) bounced back from a 50-point loss to Serbia in its opening game to beat Jordan 79-65. Rasheim Wright had 18 points for Jordan (0-2).

In Group B in Istanbul, Kevin Durant scored 22 points and reserve Kevin Love added 10 points and 11 rebounds, and the United States beat Slovenia 99-77 for its second straight win.

Rudy Gay finished with 16 points for the Americans (2-0), while Russell Westbrook and Andre Iguodala each had 11.

Bostjan Nachbar scored 13 points for Slovenia (1-1).

Roko Ukić and Bojan Bogdanović both scored 13 points as Croatia (1-1) eased past winless Iran 75-54 and Brazil won its second straight by defeating winless Tunisia 80-65.

Greece beat Puerto Rico 83-80 for its second straight win in Group C in Ankara, getting 28 points from Vassilis Spanoulis.

In other games in Ankara, China (1-1) defeated winless Ivory Coast 83-73 and host Turkey also stayed perfect by defeating Russia (1-1) 65-56.

Upon further review, it's a homer, Braves win



ATLANTA
(AP)—Brian McCann hit a

game-winning homer with help from video replay, giving the Atlanta Braves a stunning 7-6 victory over the Florida Marlins on Sunday.

It was the first time a game ended using a video review.

Pinch-hitter Matt Diaz tied it with a two-run homer off Leo Nunez (4-3) after Brooks Conrad led off the ninth with a walk. Nunez retired the next two hitters, then McCann drove a 1-2 pitch toward the wall in right.

The ball bounced back onto the field, and the umpires initially ruled it was still in play. McCann stopped at second and began arguing that he should have more than a double.

The umpires conferred, then headed toward the Florida dugout to look at a replay which clearly showed the ball struck the top of the wall—right over McCann’s name on an auxiliary scoreboard—and went over. It ricocheted back onto the field off a back wall.

Crew chief Tim McClelland returned to the field, pointed toward McCann with a slight grin—and gave the universal signal for homer. The review took a relatively quick 1 minute, 26 seconds.

Reds 7, Cubs 5

At Cincinnati, Kosuke Fukudome’s homer tied it in the top of the eighth, but his throwing error in the bottom half of the inning helped Cincinnati rally for a win that completed its season-long domination of Chicago.

The Reds took a five-game lead in the National League Central, their biggest edge since early in the 2002 season, when second-place St. Louis lost to Washington 4-2.

Fukudome’s two-run homer off Arthur Rhodes tied it at 5. His throw from right field skipped into a photographers’ booth behind third base in the bottom of the inning, letting in the go-ahead run off Sean Marshall (6-5).

Phillies 5, Padres 0

At San Diego, Cole Hamels shut down his hometown team on four singles in eight innings to win for the first time in nine starts, leading Philadelphia to a three-game sweep of bumbling NL West-leading San Diego.

The Padres have lost four straight games for the first time this season and were swept for just the second time. The Padres, who led the majors in fielding percentage (.989) coming in, committed a season-high four errors.

After being swept at home in four games by Houston, the wild card-leading Phillies had their usual success at Petco Park. They won their seventh straight game at the downtown ballpark, where they’re 18-4 since it opened in 2004.

Mike Sweeney, starting in place

of slumping Ryan Howard against left-hander Clayton Richard, and Jayson Werth homered.

Nationals 4, Cardinals 2

At Washington, Adam Wainwright struggled for five innings and St. Louis lost again, falling to Washington and dropping five games behind Cincinnati in the NL Central.

Wainwright (17-9) failed in his third bid to become the NL’s first 18-game winner. The Nationals tagged him for four runs on six hits and three walks in five innings.

In his last three starts, Wainwright’s ERA has increased from a league-leading 1.99 to 2.30.

John Lannan (6-6) drove in two early runs, then pitched shut-out ball into the seventh inning to leave the Cardinals at 2-5—all against last-place teams—on their 10-game road trip.

Michael Morse hit a two-run homer as the Nationals posted consecutive wins for the first time since July 30-31. Morse had seven straight hits, one short of tying the franchise record, before a flyout his next time up.

Giants 9, Diamondbacks 7

At San Francisco, Jose Guillen hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the seventh inning as San Francisco beat Arizona.

Freddy Sanchez added three hits and two RBIs for the Giants, who avoided being swept by the last-place Diamondbacks and pulled within five games of San Diego in the NL West.

San Francisco remained 1 1/2 games behind Philadelphia for the NL wild card.

Stephen Drew had four hits for Arizona, including his 11th home run of the season.

Jeremy Affeldt (3-3) got two outs for the win while Brian Wilson recorded the final five outs for his 36th save in 38 tries.

Brewers 8, Pirates 4

At Milwaukee, Trevor Hoffman earned his 599th career save and Ryan Braun homered as Milwaukee completed a three-game sweep of Pittsburgh.

The all-time saves leader entered the game with one out in the ninth and two runners on base, and retired both batters he faced to convert his eighth save in 13 chances this year.

Dave Bush (7-11) got the win. The Pirates have lost 13 consecutive road games.

Rockies 10, Dodgers 5

At Denver, Dexter Fowler hit two triples to set a Colorado record and had three RBIs, and Carlos Gonzalez homered twice and drove in four runs in a win over Los Angeles.

Jason Hammel (9-7) hung on for his first win in four starts since Aug. 6. Fowler has 12 triples this year, the most in a season by a Rockies player.

Dodgers pinch-hitter Manny



Atlanta Braves catcher Brian McCann (16) watches his three-run double as Florida Marlins catcher Brett Hayes (9) looks on in the second inning of a baseball game in Atlanta, Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010.

Ramirez argued a called first-pitch strike and was ejected in the sixth inning.

Mets 5, Astros 1

At New York, R.A. Dickey flustered the Astros with knuckleballs and foiled them with his bat, leading the New York Mets over Houston.

Josh Thole homered and Dickey (9-5) keyed a second-inning rally with a two-run single that helped the Mets end a four-game winning streak by Bud Norris (6-8).

Athletics 8, Rangers 2

At Arlington, Texas, pitcher Gio Gonzalez won his third consecutive start as the Oakland Athletics cut their American League West deficit to 7 1/2 games with a victory, taking two of three in their series with the division-leading Texas Rangers.

Mark Ellis and Kevin Kouzmanoff homered for the A’s off Colby Lewis (9-11), while Cliff Pennington snapped out of a 2-for-24 slide with two singles and a sacrifice squeeze bunt.

Gonzalez (12-8) left with a 7-2 lead after throwing 65 of his 95 pitches for strikes in six innings

on another hot day in Texas. The left-hander is 7-1 with a 2.10 ERA in 10 day games this season.

Yankees 2, White Sox 1

At Chicago, rookie Ivan Nova set aside any worries he had about a Major League Baseball investigation and earned his first career win, and Marcus Thames hit another homer as New York edged Chicago.

It was an impressive outing for Nova (1-0), who allowed one run and five hits with seven strikeouts and one walk in 5 2-3 innings. He outpitched Gavin Floyd (9-11) in his second start, a day after reports surfaced that the league is investigating him and a former minor league teammate for allegedly injecting each other with B-12 shots. The vitamin is not on baseball’s list of banned substances.

Thames led off the second with his fifth homer in five games and ninth overall.

Royals 6, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Kila Ka’aihue hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning to help Bruce Chen and Kansas City beat Cleveland.

Chen (9-7) allowed two runs

and six hits over six innings as the Royals avoided a three-game sweep.

Mike Aviles blooped a one-out single to center off Fausto Carmona (11-13) and scored on Ka’aihue’s drive into the left-center gap to put the Royals ahead 3-2.

Mitch Maier and Brayan Pena each had two RBIs for Kansas City.

Tigers 10, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, Ryan Raburn hit two home runs and Rick Porcello pitched two-hit ball for seven innings to lead Detroit past the Blue Jays.

Porcello (7-11) won consecutive starts for the first time this season. He walked none and struck out four.

Raburn is batting .341 with eight homers and 21 RBIs in his past 23 games.

Detroit opened the scoring in the first against Marc Rzepczynski (1-3) on an RBI double by Miguel Cabrera.

Orioles 1, Angels 0

At Anaheim, California, Jeremy Guthrie allowed four hits while pitching into the ninth inning as

two relievers helped complete Baltimore’s six-game season sweep of struggling Los Angeles.

Luke Scott scored on Matt Wieters’ sacrifice fly in the seventh. The Orioles limited the Angels to one run in three games while sweeping the season series for the first time by either club in a half-century of competition.

Guthrie (8-13) allowed just one runner to reach third base until Reggie Willits hustled for a one-out double in the ninth and advanced on Howie Kendrick’s single.

Mariners 2, Twins 1

At Seattle, a wild pitch, a misplayed fly ball and a fielder’s choice by Adam Moore in a two-run seventh inning helped Seattle beat Minnesota and avoid a three-game series sweep.

Luke French (3-4) allowed three hits, including a home run by Michael Cuddyer, in his seven innings.

David Aardsma gave up a single to Orlando Hudson with one out in the ninth, but then got Cuddyer to hit into a broken-bat double play behind second base for his 25th save in 30 chances.

Twins starter Carl Pavano (15-10) was cruising through six innings until Seattle’s rally. He allowed five hits and the two runs in his seven innings for his third consecutive loss.

Rays 5, Red Sox 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Carlos Pena and Carl Crawford homered to back James Shields and help Tampa Bay retain a share of first place in the AL East.

Keeping pace with the New York Yankees, the Rays rebounded from losing the opener of a crucial weekend series to win two straight and drop the third-place Red Sox 6 1/2 games behind in the division and wild card.

Shields (13-11) won for the sixth time in eight starts, allowing three runs and seven hits over 6 2-3 innings. He walked one and struck out eight before turning over a one-run lead to a better-than-expected bullpen.

Pena and Crawford both homered off John Lackey (12-8). Pena hit a solo shot in the fourth and Crawford delivered a two-run shot that wiped out a 3-1 Boston lead in the sixth.

Source: Ramirez expected to join White Sox

CHICAGO (AP)—Manny Ramirez helped the Boston Red Sox win the World Series in 2004 and 2007. He powered the Los Angeles Dodgers to the NL West title two years ago with a stellar run at the plate.

The Chicago White Sox are hoping he has one more playoff push left.

Ramirez is expected to join the White Sox on Monday, giving the fading playoff contenders a big boost during a

key 10-game road trip.

A person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Sunday night that Chicago was close to acquiring the slugger from L.A. The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the details were still being worked out, expected the deal to be completed on Monday, but whether it’s a trade or waiver claim was still to be determined.

The White Sox are hoping Ramirez will be energized by a change of scenery and can give them a lift similar to the one he provided when he was acquired by the Dodgers in 2008. Los Angeles got Ramirez in a deadline deal that season, and he hit .396 with 17 homers in 53 games to lead the club to the postseason.

But that was two years ago, and the 38-year-old Ramirez has been hampered by right leg injuries this season. The outfielder is batting .311 with

eight homers and 40 RBIs in 66 games in 2010.

White Sox general manager Kenny Williams declined comment in an e-mail to the AP. The AP also e-mailed Dodgers GM Ned Colletti seeking comment.

Ramirez’s salary is \$20 million in the final season of a two-year contract, but only \$5 million is due this year, with the rest to be paid over the next three years. He also has a full no-trade clause.

BANMI to focus on age group competitions

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Now that the Micronesian Basketball Confederation is back, Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands will put premium on age group competitions.

"I was one of those who attended the MBC meeting and I believed everyone agrees that for basketball to develop in the region, we have to create competition pathways. Grassroots is where we need to focus, as focusing on the senior level now is not going to get us moving forward," BANMI president Elias Rangamar said.

MBC was revived during the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau after years of inactivity and the group quickly planned age group competitions in the region in the next four years. BANMI followed the lead immediately, making significant changes in the age group competition in the Rotary youth caging. Instead of holding a U18 competition, BANMI

divided the Rotary caging into two age groups—the U19 and U15.

The two age group competitions will allow BANMI to select a pool of players where CNMI will get its representatives to regional tournaments under MBC's calendar in 2011 and 2012.

"Our immediate plans must be in the grassroots and age group development. Contrary to what many believe, our level of basketball in the CNMI with all these leagues going around is still at the recreational level," Rangamar said.

"We focus too much on competition and not much in the skills aspect of the game. Playing too many games inhibits our basketball skills and develops bad habits. In order to get to the regional or collegiate level, we need to focus our attention to age group developments," he added.

Rangamar also said BANMI will give priority to coaches of age group teams.

"Coaching development should also be a priority and it should coincide with the various age group development plans," Rangamar said.

next month will be at their prime, battle tested, and will be ready for high-quality competitions," he added.

Rangamar said sending young athletes in off-island competitions is part of NMA's long-term plan of developing athletes.

"You can't just send a newcomer to a tournament and expect him to win big in that event. It will take time and more exposure for an athlete to excel. This happened to Yvonne Bennett and

ter being injured in his last fight.

Fitrial has competed in mixed martial arts on and off for the last six years. He claims an overall record of 20 wins, seven losses, and a draw. He is the front man for the Marianas Elite fight team where he has served as the head trainer for over three years.

Leading up to the main event fight, Fitrial has been running, lifting weights, watching his weight, and staying active to keep his body conditioned and ready to go. He has been training by himself while working at the same time.

Fitrial leaves for Hong Kong on Sept. 19 will be accompanied by stablemate Lionel "Da Hellion" Borja, who will serve as his corner man.

In the past, Fitrial has competed in mixed martial arts events in the Pacific Islands, the Philippines, Korea, and China. He has also competed in various

"2010 Little League World Series Champions." They finished the tournament a perfect 5-0.

Cheered on by Hawaii fans waving U.S. flags and tea leaves they've been carrying around for good luck, the Waipahu All-Stars put on a valiant effort on the mound and with the glove. Thirteen-year-old lefty starter Cody Maltz, who hadn't pitched in roughly a month, held Japan to four hits over 5 2/3 innings, and Noah Shackles' fine stop of a hard bouncer at third likely saved two runs from scoring in the third.

But the mashers from the West region couldn't get the clutch hits that had propelled their unlikely run of four victories in four elimination games over four days into the Little League final.

So the All-Star team from Tokyo's Edogawa Minami Little League became the first international team to take the crown since Curacao in 2004. A team from Tokyo's Musashi-Fuchu league was the last winner from Japan, the previous year.

Through the week, Japan's fans clad

Once these plans are in place and are executed, BANMI hopes it will be able to send formidable teams in Micronesian Basketball Tournaments, starting next year until 2014.

Next year, the CNMI is scheduled to compete in a U15 tournament in the Western Division of MBT in Palau. Besides Palau and the CNMI, the Western Division is also open for teams from Guam and Yap. The Eastern Division, composed of Republic of Marshall Islands, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk, will have their separate competition in Pohnpei.

In 2012, it will be the turn of U17 players to participate in the Western Division tournament, which CNMI will be hosting. The Marshall Islands will host the Eastern tournament, while Guam will be the venue for the regional MBT.

In 2013, the region will have another U15 tournaments for East and West and also the U19 regional, while the U17 competitions will take place again in 2014 before the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

Jacque Wonenberg. We gave them the opportunity to compete in various off-island tournaments for several years and looked what they had brought for us," Rangamar said.

Bennett shattered several marks in the 100, 200m, and 400m in five years and is currently Micronesia's fastest woman, while Wonenberg won the most medals (nine) in the athletics competition in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau.

grappling competitions, but this will be his first fight since September 2009 when he knocked out Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa in Pacific Xtreme Championship 18: Dead Game 2.

The 26-year-old Fitrial stands 6' 3" (191 cm), weighs 254 lbs (115 kg), and utilizes boxing and wrestling techniques. His opponent, 20-year-old Yang Hae Jun, meanwhile, stands 5' 11" (180 cm) and weighs 238 lbs (108 kg). Like Fitrial, Yang is known as a stand-up fighter who primarily utilizes boxing and wrestling techniques. Notably, Yang wrestled for Yong-In University, home to numerous Korean Olympic medalists, but is actually more known for his devastating striking power.

"I know he is a Jiu Jitsu fighter and a stand-up guy like myself so I expect this to be an exciting challenge and one of the biggest fights of my career," said Fitrial.

in bright red hats and white T-shirts have been cheering the team with rhythmic clapping from the stands, at times to the melody of "Popeye the Sailor Man," the muscle-bound cartoon character.

But pitching and defense were the forte of a squad with a team ERA of 1.92 entering Sunday.

Natsuki Mizumachi took a few steps to his right and dropped to his knees to rob Kahoe Akau of a hit to center in the fifth. Twelve-year-old second baseman Koutaro Kamikura followed that up with a nice stop to his right of a hard bouncer by Ty DeSa to save another hit.

The 12-year-old Tomori tacked on two insurance runs in the sixth with his opposite-field shot to right.

Chants of "USA! USA!" echoed through Lamade Stadium after Shackles reached on an error with one out in the sixth.

But Ogasawara got a strikeout for the second out, and Teruma Nagata happily jogged in from right when he caught the final out.

FIVE

From Page 28

U20 athletes who are probably at their peak," Elias Rangamar said.

"What we are looking at is for these athletes to experience what it is like to compete against tough athletes outside the CNMI. We want them to gauge the competition and learn how their competitors reach that peak. After several years, these athletes going to Cairns

BIG HIT

From Page 28

"I am a goal-oriented person aiming for success...I have come to learn that there are people here that look up to me and even though I have made mistakes in the past I intend to establish myself as a positive influence for the CNMI youth. When I leave the island to represent the CNMI I am doing it all for my family, friends, fans, Marianas Elite, and all of my supporters in the CNMI," added Fitrial.

A little over four months ago, Fitrial was invited to compete in this year's LFC 3 by a friend of one of the referees from the 12th Art of War Fighting Championships in Beijing back in May 2009. Fitrial was initially scheduled to fight a different heavyweight from Australia, but the Aussie pulled out af-

JAPAN

From Page 28

For the first time since 2003, a team from Japan is flying home with the championship banner.

Hawaii, which had scored 29 runs over its previous three games, came up short at the plate against Tokyo.

Hawaii's only run came on an error off a sacrifice bunt in the fourth, but reliever Ichiro Ogasawara worked out of a second-and-third jam with a strikeout and a weak bouncer.

Ryuusuke Ikeda got the win with after striking out five and allowing four hits over three innings, before Ogasawara pitched the final three, striking out three to get his third save.

Fittingly, Japan's players gravitated to the mound after the game to scoop up bags of dirt to take home as mementos, as family members watched proudly from the first-base stands.

After exchanging handshakes at the plate with Hawaii, Japan also got another souvenir—a banner that read

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	80	50	.615	—
Tampa Bay	80	50	.615	—
Boston	74	57	.565	6 1/2
Toronto	68	62	.523	12
Baltimore	48	83	.366	32 1/2

Central Division

Minnesota	75	56	.573	—
Chicago	70	60	.538	4 1/2
Detroit	65	66	.496	10
Kansas City	55	75	.423	19 1/2
Cleveland	53	77	.408	21 1/2

West Division

Texas	73	57	.562	—
Oakland	65	64	.504	7 1/2
Los Angeles	63	68	.481	10 1/2
Seattle	51	79	.392	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	75	55	.577	—
Philadelphia	73	57	.562	2
Florida	65	64	.504	9 1/2
New York	65	65	.500	10
Washington	56	75	.427	19 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	75	55	.577	—
St. Louis	69	59	.539	5
Milwaukee	62	68	.477	13
Houston	59	71	.454	16
Chicago	55	76	.420	20 1/2
Pittsburgh	43	87	.331	32

West Division

San Diego	76	53	.589	—
San Francisco	72	59	.550	5
Colorado	68	61	.527	8
Los Angeles	67	64	.511	10
Arizona	52	79	.397	25

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 7, Chicago Cubs 5
N.Y. Mets 5, Houston 1
Atlanta 7, Florida 6
Washington 4, St. Louis 2
Milwaukee 8, Pittsburgh 4
Colorado 10, L.A. Dodgers 5
San Francisco 9, Arizona 7
Philadelphia 5, San Diego 0
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 2
Detroit 10, Toronto 4
N.Y. Yankees 2, Chicago White Sox 1
Oakland 8, Texas 2
Baltimore 1, L.A. Angels 0
Seattle 2, Minnesota 1
Tampa Bay 5, Boston 3

THE BARCLAYS SCORES



Wabol formalizes August win

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol secured the August Ace of the Month Tournament victory of the Refaluwasch Golf Association after nobody was able to beat the net 66 he shot during the qualifier a couple of weeks ago yesterday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Wabol tried to beat the qual-

Jess "Mr. Unorthodox" Wabol, seen here in a file photo, won the August Ace of the Month Tournament of the Refaluwasch Golf Association after his qualifying net score of 66 held sway last Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

fying score nonetheless but fell short, as the conditions at the Kagman facility's west course were unforgiving.

The many time CNMI national golfer shot a 1-over par 37 in the front nine and then struggled a little in the back after a heavy downpour on the approach to hole No. 12. The rain left the fairways with casual water and gave the eventual monthly champion and the entire group a challenge.

In the end, Wabol limped back to the clubhouse with a 4-over 40 in the back nine and totaled a gross of 77, which minus his two handicap, gave him a net 75.

In fact, the honor of having the

round's lowest net was registered by Tars Olopai, who took the day's winnings with a net 71.

The seven-handicapper birdied holes No. 7 and 9 in the front to shoot a 38. Like Wabol though, he also struggled in the back end and closed with a 4-over 40 to finish with a gross of 78.

A total of 17 RGA members took part in the August Ace. The rest of the players, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Astorio Tawanpiy (73); Tony Satur (73); Joe Wabol (74); Jess Seman (74); Manny Mangarero (74); Ray Tigilau (75); Ed Tenorio (77); Nick Leon Guerrero (78); Diwain Stephen (81); Jordan Kosam (81); Tony



Rogolifo (83); Tom Tebuteb (85); Emery Kaipat (91); and Carl Hocog (91).

In the closest to the pin competition, the winners were Leon Guerrero in hole No. 17 and Seman in hole No. 17.

With the August victory, Jess Wabol joins seven other RGA monthly winners that advanced to season ending club championship. Previous winners are Jun "Young Gun" Yi Piao (January), Joe Saures (February), Leon Guerrero (March), Hocog (April), Xian Lai Cue (May), Seman (June), and Olopai (July).

RGA will hold its September qualifier on Sept. 11 with the venue and tee time still to be announced.

PSS, AG's, CUC, DPS score wins

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



PSS Southside went into Wild Bill's and edged out the DPW Troubleshooters, AG's Piligro extended their reign atop the leader board after going into Buddies and knocking off DYS Atdit, CUC Power Plant dominated Public Health's Oh Yeah in a home game at Charley's Bar, and the DPS Enforcers went into USSP and made light work of NMC PROA in last Friday's Bud Light Lime Second Inter-Government Dart League matchups.

With a 0.64 winning percentage, AG's Piligro currently sits in first place with a win-loss card of 48-27. CUC Power Plant is right on their tail in second at 38-22. DPW Troubleshooters is comfortable in third with a 45-30 record.

PSS Southside 8, DPW Troubleshooters 7

Jack Guerrero, Sam Babauta, and Jess Iglesias of the home team Troubleshooters won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games to give their team a brief lead. Then both teams each took a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket, Partners

games before home team CUC Power Plant swept both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket matches. Then both teams split a game of Partners BURMA/New Machine Half It before CUC Power Plant swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games. CUC's Pat Taitano, Frank Mizutani, Erwin Clavecillas, and Joy Silva swept all four Singles Regular Cricket matches to seal the victory for CUC Power Plant before Oh Yeah took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game.

DPS Enforcers 13, NMC PROA 2

Tony Mareham, Hank Magofna, Vince Mareham, and John Tagabuel of the visiting DPS Enforcers swept the first four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games and their team won both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket matches. Then both teams each split a game of Partners BURMA/New Machine Half It and Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games before Tony Mareham, Buddy Igitol, Magofna, and Tagabuel of the Enforcers swept the Singles Regular Cricket games. The Enforcers slammed the door at the end after taking the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game.

Both teams split a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the first place TDI Black Stallions pose for a photo after their victory over Just 4 Fun at Jonny's Bar during last Wednesday's Bud Light SEDA Masters League matchups.

Black Stallions keep shaky lead in masters

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first place TDI Black Stallions went into Jonny's Bar and dominated Just 4 Fun, the Oleai Beach Bar's Erap Snipers fended off Buddies Bullshooters at home, the VFW Angry Dragons defeated D'Pirates Bar & Grill's D'Companeros at home, and DPBG's M-Destroyers went into Buddies Bar and edged out Red Horse during last Wednesday's Saipan Electronic Dart Association's Master Division matchups.

With a win-loss record of 51-

17, the Black Stallions are nar-

rowly holding on to the top spot by only three games over the Erap Snipers (48-20). Additionally, in a nice fight for third, the Bullshooters (35-33) are edging out the Angry Dragons (32-36) by a slim three games as well.

Currently, in a range of five to eight games played thus far, Pam Ybanez is the top-ranked SEDA Master Division player with a weighted average of 70.35, while Willy Cuesta (69.47), Jun Olita (66.70), Anie Legaspi (61.64), Leo Lindo (61.62), Romano Quindosa (61.49), Noel Montalbo (60.92), Joy Silva (60.70), Junnie Guevarra (60.40), and Jun Lapeciros (60.29) round out the Top 10.

Black Stallions 12, Just 4 Fun 5

Jun Olita, Joy Silva, and Jun Lapeciros of visiting Black Stallions won three of the four

Singles Regular Cricket matches to give their team an early lead. The Black Stallions swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games and Silva, Lapeciros, and Noel Montalbo

poured some on Just 4 Fun by taking three of the four Singles Sniper matches. Then the Black Stallions sealed the automatic win after both teams split a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and Junnie Guevarra, Bing Campo and Greg Sasamoto of the D'Companeros took three of the Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games before the Angry Dragons won the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match.

Erap Snipers 10, Bullshooters 7

Pam Ybanez, Willy Cuesta, and Rolly Morales of the home team Erap Snipers won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket games to give their team an early lead. Then both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out and a pair of Singles Sniper matches. The Erap Snipers swept both Partners Wild and

Crazy Cricket before Ybanez's Singles 301 Double In/Double Out win clinched the automatic win for the Erap Snipers. Her teammate, Cuesta, added another for good measure, while the last two 301 matches and the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out game went to the Bullshooters.

Angry Dragons 10, D'Companeros 7

Both teams won a pair of Sin-

gles Regular Cricket before the home team Angry Dragons swept both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games. Then Lionel Sanchez, Charlie Peters, and Jerry Zapanta of the Angry Dragons won three of the four Singles Sniper matches. Both teams split a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and Junnie Guevarra, Bing Campo and Greg Sasamoto of the D'Companeros took three of the Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games before the Angry Dragons won the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out match.

M-Destroyers 9, Red Horse 8

Nonoy Avelino, Larry Santiago, Rick Elefante, and Jhun Lambon started out well for home team Red Horse after sweeping all four Singles Regular Cricket games to start the match. Then both teams split a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out. Anie Legaspi, Leo Lindo, Bong Dizon, and Gigi Gatmaitan swept all four Singles Sniper matches that staged a comeback for the M-Destroyers. After both teams took a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket, M-Destroyers Jeff Barit, Legaspi, and Gatmaitan won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games for the automatic win. Red Horse won the final Team 1001 Cherry Double In/Double Out game, but still came up a little short in this contest.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CUC Power Plant dart team pose for a photo after defeating Public Health's Oh Yeah, 11-4, last Friday at home in Charley's Bar.



Upon further review, it's a homer, Braves win

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**Kuchar wins
Barclays on first
playoff hole**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mieko keeps poise in XTERRA Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mieko Carey took everything thrown at her during the 2010 XTERRA Japan Championships last Saturday en route to another first place finish in the annual race.

From the frigid water in the swim leg to the muddy trail in the bike and run races, Carey survived it all, making her second win in XTERRA Japan sweeter than the first one.

"Every year, the race in XTERRA Japan is different. But this year, I would say it was the toughest. This year, I was not racing against fellow participants, but I was racing against



the tough weather condition, praying that I would not make any wrong move, as one small mistake will mean a bad accident," Carey said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

At the start of the race, Carey had already faced a killer in the cold and frigid water in Marunuma.

"Manuruma is a high-altitude area so the weather is usually cold. Every swim race there, the water is too cold, making it hard for us to breath. Last Saturday, the temperature was 24 degree Celsius, not that bad and the elite athletes were not allowed to wear wetsuits, only the age group participants. I was without a wetsuit so the 24-degree

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mieko Carey is seen here in the bike leg of the 2010 XTERRA Japan Championships in Marunuma last Saturday.



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics will be sending a lean team to the 2010 Oceania Athletics Area Championships in Cairns, Australia next month.

NMA developmental coach Elias Rangamar, in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said five young athletes will be representing the CNMI to the Oceania meet that will run from Sept. 22 to 26 in the Land Down Under.

The five-athlete team is composed

of Lia Rangamar, Douglas Dillay, Ryan Ichihara, Reylynn Sapong, and Brandon Philip. Micronesian area representative Robin Sapong will accompany the five Commonwealth athletes in Cairns and will also attend an important meeting of the Oceania Athletics Association.

"We are sending athletes only for the U20 competition, as this will be very beneficial to our program for

young and upcoming athletes," Elias Rangamar said.

Lia Rangamar is entered in three events—the long jump, javelin throw, and discus. Douglas Dillay will compete in the 800m and 1,500m races, while Reylynn Sapong will run in the 400m and 800m events. Ichihara and Philip will both join the 100m and 200m races and the long jump.

"We are not setting too much expectations from these young athletes. They are all U16 athletes and will be going up against U18, U19, and

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Ichihara



Dillay



Philip



Rangamar



Sapong



Tokyo, Japan, pitcher Ichiro Ogasawara, center, celebrates with teammates Ryota Morimatsu, left, and Ginga Maruoka (10) after getting the final out against Waipahu, Hawaii, in the Little League World Series championship baseball game in South Williamsport, Pa., Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010.

Japan takes Little League WS title

By GENARO C. ARMAS
AP SPORTS WRITER

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP)—The Little League aces from Japan ended the United States' five-year reign as World Series champions.

The team from Tokyo limited Waipa-

hu, Hawaii, to four singles, and got a homer and three RBIs from Konan Tomori to take the Little League World Series title with a 4-1 victory Sunday.

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